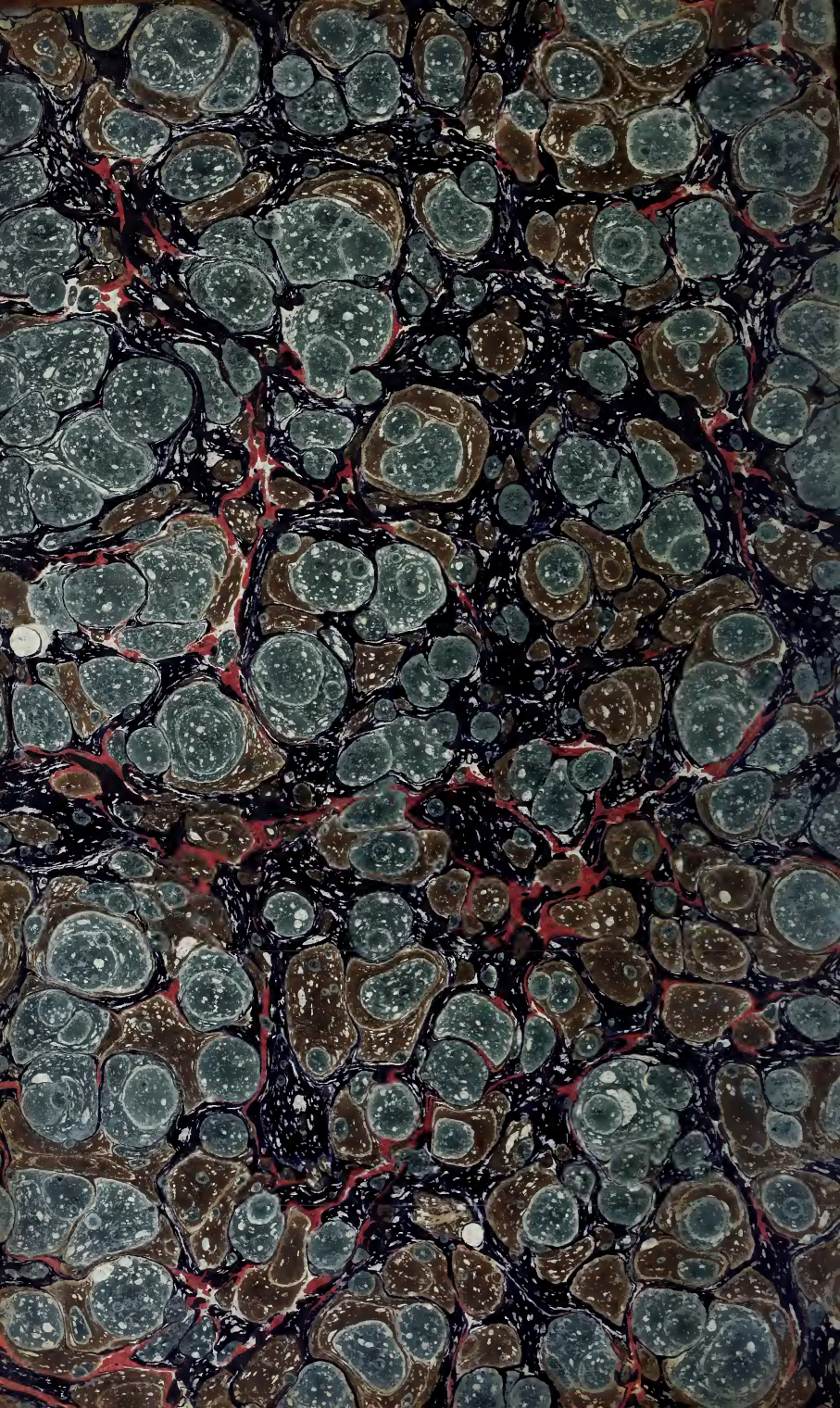

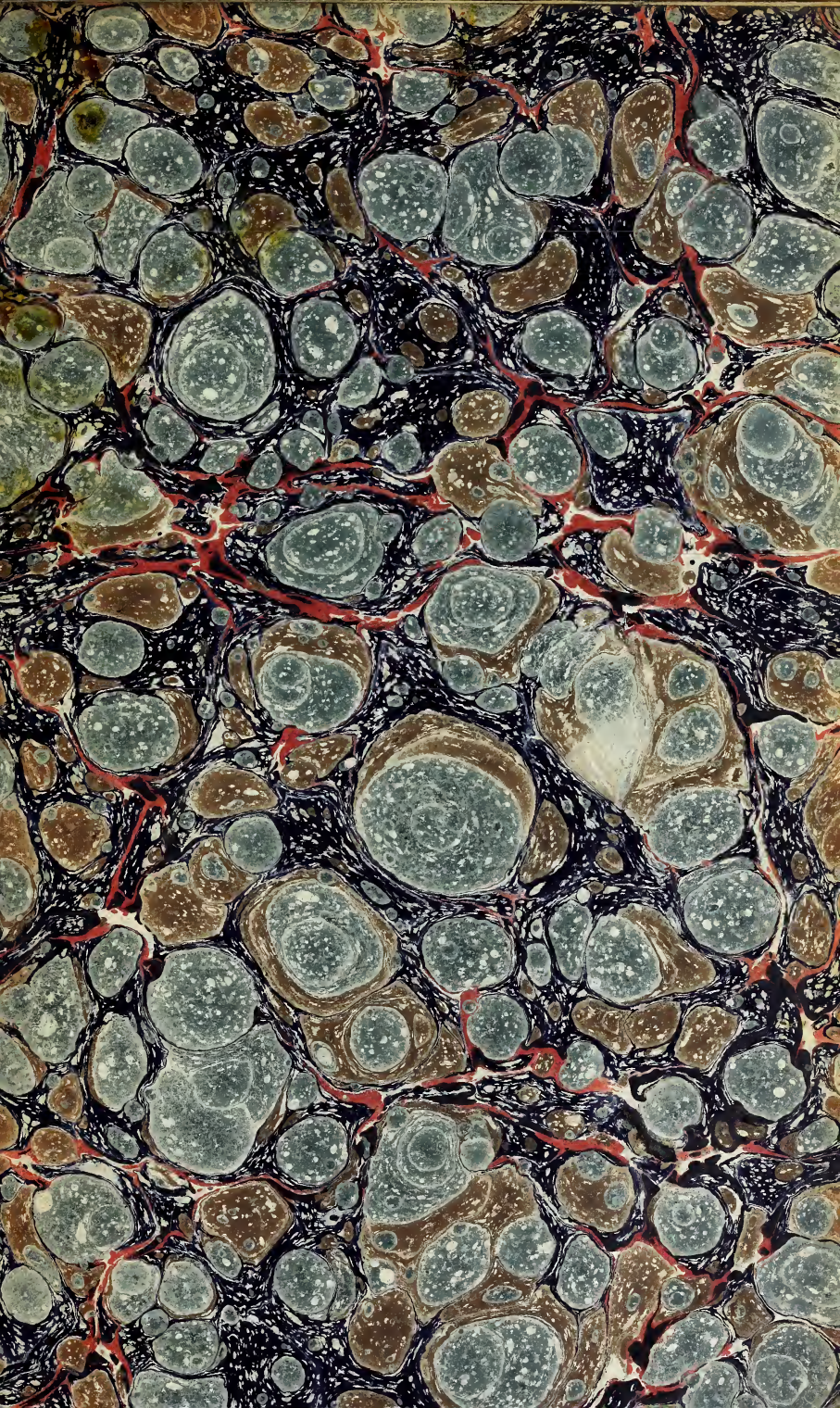

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THE

# *Beauties*

of

# ENGLAND AND WALES;

OR

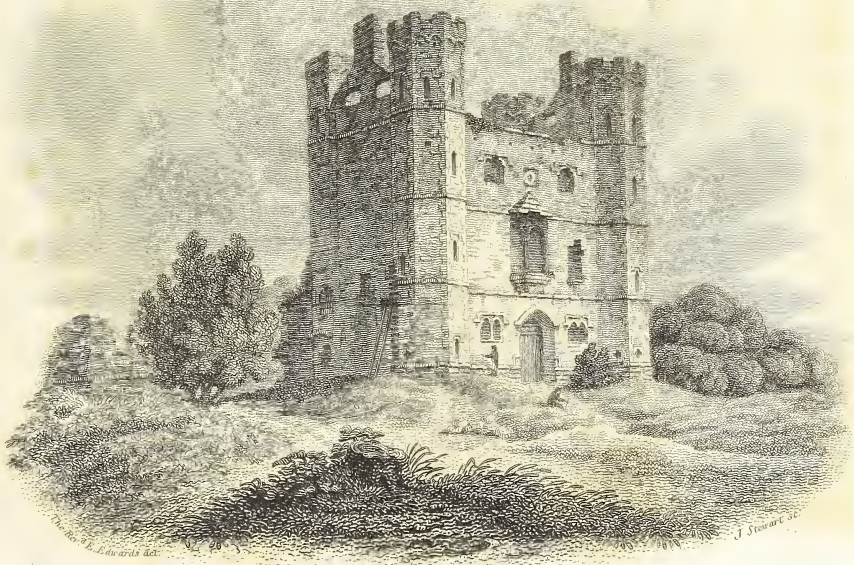
## *DELINEATIONS*

TOPOGRAPHICAL HISTORICAL

and

DESCRIPTIVE.

Vol. XI



Middleton Castle Norfolk.

London: Published by Vernor Hood & Sharpe, Poultry, Augst. 1809.

THE

# BEAUTIES

OF

# *England and Wales:*

OR,

## *DELINEATIONS,*

TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, AND DESCRIPTIVE,

OF

## EACH COUNTY.

EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

BY

THE REV. J. EVANS, AND J. BRITTON.

VOL. XI.

"Island of bliss! Amid the subject seas,
That thunder round thy rocky coast, set up,
At once the wonder, terror, and delight,
Of distant nations; whose remotest shores
Can soon be shaken by thy naval arm;
Not to be shook thyself, but all assaults
Baffling, as thy hoar cliffs the loud sea-wave."

THOMSON.

LONDON:

*Printed by James Cundee, Ivy-Lane*

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J. CUTHELL; J. RICHARDSON; J. HARRIS; B. CROSBY & CO.
AND J. M. RICHARDSON

1810.

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1801

TO

THE RIGHT HONORABLE

JOHN

EARL OF UPPER OSSORY,

AND

BARON GOWRAN OF GOWRAN IN IRELAND;

ALSO

BARON UPPER OSSORY OF AMPTHILL IN ENGLAND:

AND

LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD;

A NOBLEMAN WHO HAS MANIFESTED, ON MANY OCCASIONS, A ZEALOUS

PATRONAGE IN BEHALF OF

THE FINE ARTS AND LITERATURE

OF THE KINGDOM:

THIS VOLUME, CONTAINING

TOPOGRAPHICAL DELINEATIONS OF

MONMOUTHSHIRE, NORFOLK, AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE,

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

THE EDITOR.

*January*, 1810.

THE

# BEAUTIES

OF

# England and Wales.

## NORFOLK.

THE extensive county of Norfolk, from its numerous objects of antiquity, its geographical situation on the German Ocean, and contiguity to Denmark, and some other northern kingdoms; from its sea-ports, towns, seats, agricultural and manufactured products, becomes highly interesting to the topographer who undertakes the history of the district: and though he may shrink under the load of responsibility that oppresses his mind in contemplating the vastness and variety of the subjects which are necessarily embraced, yet his curiosity and zeal will be constantly kept alert, and he will be induced to prosecute his task with some degree of cheerfulness, under the conviction that the liberal reader will appreciate his works with lenity, and scrutinize them with candour. In the following *brief essay*, the author only professes to *sketch* some of the most prominent features, and *delineate* a history and description of the chief places and objects in the county. In order to render this perspicuous, and easy for reference, the whole will be classed under different heads.

HISTORICAL EVENTS OF THE COUNTY.—In the preceding histories of Cambridgeshire *, and Huntingdonshire †, several

 events

* Vol. II. p. 3, 4, &c. † Vol. VII. p. 325, &c.

events have been already related respecting the ICENI, and that class of them called *Cénomanni*, or *Cenimagni*. According to Whitaker, the latter were descended from the "Cenomanni of Gaul," and inhabited "all the counties of Suffolk and Cambridge, perhaps, the north of Bedfordshire to the Ouse on the south, certainly the south of Northamptonshire to the Nen on the north, and absolutely the whole of Huntingdonshire and Norfolk; being limited on the north by the Nen, and having *Castor*, near Norwich, for their Venta, or first city *."

In narrating the history of the people, and of their military transactions anterior to the Norman conquest, we must necessarily review the whole eastern province of England; as it is almost impossible to distinguish the events which solely belong to the tract of land, now called Norfolk, from those which occurred in the vicinity. Neither the Britons, Romans, nor Danes had established the precise and peculiar boundaries that now serve to mark the separation of counties; consequently, in treating of those people, or of the times when they governed, we must be more general than particular, in language.

Although this county formed part of the territory occupied by the *Iceni*, and its aboriginal inhabitants must have shared in the disasters which befel that brave people, in their various, but unsuccessful struggles for independency; yet nothing remains upon record to ascertain whether this portion of their country was ever the scene of the sanguinary conflicts between them and the Romans. The district inhabited by the Trinobantes appears to have formed the principal theatre on which British valour was displayed; and where the united forces of the two neighbouring states retaliated their respective injuries upon their cruel invaders. Subsequent to the death of the heroical *Boadicea*, and the dispersion of the allied armies, *Cerealis* was sent into this island; and after him, *Julius Frontinus*, with new levies for the Roman armies; both which generals were equally successful

* History of Manchester, Vol. I. 4to. 62—149.

cessful against the vanquished Britons. *Julius Agricola*, however, who commanded during the reigns of Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian, distinguished himself the most, in obtaining advantages for his own country, by the conquest of Britain. It is also said, that he gradually incorporated the Britons as denizens of the empire, and formed this hostile country into a *Roman colony*. To keep them in subjection, and overawe, if not subdue the spirit of the inhabitants, impatient of restraint, and still disposed to revolt, as well as to guard the coasts against the frequent attempts of the northern hordes, the Roman generals judiciously appointed a number of military posts in this part of their newly-acquired territory. Five principal Stations were established within, and contiguous to this county. These were *Branudonum*, *Garianonum*, *Venta-Icenorum*, *Sitomagus*, and *Ad-Tuam;* besides which several subordinate *Castra-Æstiva* and *Stativa-hyberna* were also formed. Of the latter kind were, according to some writers, *Buxton*, *Caster* near Yarmouth, *Buckenham*, *Castle-Acre*, and *Elham*. At these places have been discovered, several coins, urns, and other remains of that people. These, and other fortifications, intended to intimidate the Britons, as well as to repel invasion, were placed under the supreme command of an officer, whose title, according to some authors, was *Comes tractus maritimi;* and to others, *Comes litoris Saxonici*, i. e. Count of the Saxon shore. Under his control the stations on the east side of the island were placed, the garrisons of which are stated to have consisted of 2200 infantry, and 200 cavalry. These numbers are set down in the *Notitia*, written in the reign of the younger Theodosius, about the year 410. But as this allowance of troops was inadequate for the defence of each station, much more to subdue insurrection, it is probable, that to the Romans were joined British conscript troops, not included in this enumeration: for we find, that about twenty years after, the imperial armies in this country were comprised chiefly of British auxiliaries, which, together with the few remaining Roman

troops, were recalled, to defend the Roman capital, by Maximus and Constantine.

Britain, thus deprived of her best soldiers, soon became debilitated, fell an easy prey to the united ravages of the Picts and Scots; and her downfal was completed by the imbecility of *Vortigern*, king of the *Dunmonii:* who, inviting to his assistance the *Saxons*, quickly, but too late, discovered that they had remunerated their own services by the seizure of his territories.

The first Saxon leader, who established himself in this part of the island, was *Uffa*, who, A. D. 575, assumed dominion over that portion of the country, which at present comprises *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, and *Cambridgeshire*, giving it the appellation of EAST-ANGLIA: and the inhabitants were denominated *Uffagines*. About this period, it is highly probable, that the city of Norwich arose out of the Venta-Icenorum of the Britons and Romans, and from its relative bearing to the old city, was called, by the Saxons, *North-ick*, or *Northwick*.

Uffa, who died A. D. 578, was succeeded by his son *Titist*, on whose demise, 599, his son *Redwald* assumed the reins of government, and embraced christianity; but, by the influence of his wife, renounced it again. He was succeeded, A. D. 624, by his son *Erpwald*, who was assassinated by a relation named *Richbert*, A. D. 633. His half-brother, *Sigebert*, or *Sigbercht*, succeeded to the crown, in whose reign the bishopric of Dunwich, in Suffolk, was established; and the first seminary for religious instruction formed, which led to the establishment of an university in Cambridge. Fatigued with the burthen of government, he resigned both his crown and its cares, A. D. 644, to his kinsman *Egric*. The Saxon governments were now at variance amongst themselves. Penda, king of Mercia, commenced hostilities against Egric, who called Sigebert from his monastic retirement to head his army; they were defeated, and both slain in battle. Anna, nephew of Redwald, ascended the throne, restored Cenwalch to his kingdom of Wessex, and became the most celebrated of the East-Anglian princes.

princes. But Penda bringing against him the powerful resources of Mercia, he fell in battle, A. D. 654. From this period, the Mercian princes seem to have dictated in the choice of monarchs for the East-Angles; and, in the year 792, Offa, king of Mercia, united the kingdom of East-Anglia with his own; and, subsequently, it became successively subject to the power of Mercia or of Kent.

The several kingdoms of the Heptarchy, or Octarchy, were reduced by intestine broils, and foreign inroads, to a state of confusion, approximating to anarchy, when *Egbert* ascended the throne of Wessex. He had been brought up in the court of Charlemagne; and from that wise and powerful monarch he had learned to aspire at universal dominion. On his return to his country, A. D. 800, having taken the reins of government, he first directed his attention to the refractory Britons in Wales and Cornwall; whom he so far subdued, as to render them tributary to his crown. He then proceeded to chastise the insolence and usurpations of the contiguous kingdoms; and to execute his plan of a general incorporation of them into one government. Some of the states, too weak for resistance, had previously met the wishes of Egbert; and he soon reduced, to compliance, the remaining states of Mercia, East Saxony, and Kent. In this manner the separate kingdoms of the Heptarchy were united into one great nation, about four hundred years after the first landing of the Saxons on the shores of Britain.

During the latter part of this dynasty, the *Danes*, who had become a powerful people in the north, turned their attention southward, and at various times invested the coasts with a view of finally getting possession of the country. Norfolk shared largely in the general calamity resulting from these hostile plunderers. The Danes first came over under their leaders *Hungar* and *Hubba*, sons of a Danish chieftain, named Lothbric; who having been shipwrecked on this coast, was hospitably received by King Edmund, in his court at Castor, who entertained his guest by indulging him in the sports of the field, to which

the Dane had been long accustomed. While thus amusing himself, one day, he was killed by the king's falconer. For this offence the falconer, as a punishment, was doomed to be committed to the mercy of the waves in the same bark in which Lothbric had been shipwrecked. The winds having conveyed the vessel to the shores of Denmark, he landed; and, in revenge, represented to the sons of Lothbric that their father had been cruelly murdered by the command of Edmund. Incensed at the recital, they collected an army, and, accompanied by their informant, set out on an expedition, to retaliate their father's death; and the shipwreck having happened on the coast of East-Anglia, against that they principally directed their rage. The above particulars are related in an extract from a Chronicle of the monastery of St. Edmund's Bury, preserved by Leland, in his Collectanea, Vol. I. p. 220. The manuscript also states, that this invasion took place, A. D. 870. The two leaders landed their troops near *Redeham*, now a small village, opposite the town of Yarmouth, at the mouth of the river Yare. The Danes soon became formidable in their invasions, and, at times, over-run the whole country. Previous to the death of Egbert, they possessed the whole of East-Anglia. On the demise of that monarch, *Ethelwolf* obtained the crown of England. He was totally inadequate to succeed so puissant a prince as his father, at this momentous crisis. The Danes proved too subtle and powerful for his military knowledge and strength. In numerous engagements they routed and defeated his armies. He died in the year 857, and was succeeded by *Ethelbald*, his son, who died, A. D. 860, when his eldest brother assumed the government. *Ethelred*, the third brother, came to the throne in 866. In his reign the Danes extended their ravages over the greater part of his dominions; but under the martial spirit and prowess of his younger brother, *Alfred*, then invested with the title and authority of Earl and Field-Marshal, they received a severe check; and by the continued reverses they experienced, were constrained to abandon East-Anglia entirely, and concentrate their

their forces in Wessex; where several desperate battles were fought, with varied success; in one of which *Ethelred* was mortally wounded; and, dying in 872, *Alfred* ascended the throne. After many sanguinary conflicts, victories, and defeats, perils and escapes, this magnanimous prince overcame the Danes, under their leader, *Guthrum*, at Eddington, in Wiltshire, A. D. 878 or 9*. On this occasion he compelled the Danish chieftains and their followers to receive Christian baptism, and allotted the province of East-Anglia for their limited residence. This, Guthrum was to hold *in capite*, or fealty, of the crown, as a feudatory prince. Here the Danes betook themselves to the cultivation of domestic duties; they built houses and improved the lands, were admitted to the privileges of Englishmen, and received a code of laws, for their regulation, from Alfred. Guthrum had fixed his seat of viceroyalty sometimes at Cambridge, and sometimes at Norwich. But after this signal defeat and consequent restriction, the principal residence of the Danish leaders was the latter city. The restless spirit of these marauders, however, could not long brook such restraint. Encouraged by rumours of fresh arrivals of their countrymen, they revolted, and were again subdued; after which the provinces of Northumberland, and East-Anglia were taken under the English government.

On the accession of *Edward*, surnamed the Elder, England was divided between the Anglo-Saxons and Danes. This monarch,



* Mr. Wilkins states this to have taken place at Ethandun, in Essex. *Ethendune* is the name of the place in the *Saxon Chronicle*, where the battle is said to have been fought, but no notice whatever is taken to identify the place, which is the general defect in that invaluable historic document; and, perhaps, is the strongest argument for its being genuine. The writers supposed, that persons who might consult it, would be well acquainted with the localities when the *names* were mentioned; but every circumstance connected with the fact tends to shew that it must have been *Eddington*, in *Wiltshire*, on the verge of Salisbury Plain. To which place Alfred marched, after having assembled his followers, with their mustered troops, in the forest of Frome-Selwood, on the eastern border of the county of Somerset. Dr. Beke contends that Eddington, near Hungerford in Berkshire, is the place alluded to in the Chronicle. *Lysons's Mag.* Brit. Vol. I. p. 162.

narch, the son of the heroic Alfred, inherited with his throne, the plague of contending with the treacherous Danes. *Esric*, the successor of Guthrum, joined his forces to the seditious Ethelwold, and waged war against Edward. After many sanguinary battles, in which the English monarch is said to have been materially assisted by the skill and courage of his sister, *Elfleda*, he vanquished the forces of Esric, who was slain, A. D. 905*. In 921, the Danes of East-Anglia took the oath of allegiance to Edward, in which year that monarch died, and the province of the East Angles was again annexed to the crown of England. From that period Norwich continued a royal castle, and the county remained, with the other parts of the province, in possession of the Saxon line, through the succeeding reigns of Athelstan, Edmund, Edred or Eldred, Edwin or Edwy, Edgar, and Edward the Martyr. In the reign of Ethelred the Second, the Danes again became extremely troublesome, and, A. D. 992, invaded with great force, East-Anglia; and proceeding as far as London, invested that city. About this time, a tax on lands, called *Danegelt*, was levied throughout the kingdom, to appease the invaders, and purchase their departure. Ethelred having gained additional strength and confidence, by his marriage with a daughter of Richard the Second, Duke of Normandy, he ordered a general massacre of the Danes, which took place November the 13th. To revenge this outrage, Sweyne, King of Denmark, assembled a numerous army, and, with a powerful fleet, invaded England; and landing on the coast of Norfolk, burnt the cities of Norwich and Thetford, and was proceeding to devastate every part of the country. In this desolating career his army was arrested by Earl Ulfkettle, who, prior to his taking the field, had given orders to burn the Danish navy, which orders being neglected, the routed Danes found means to escape; after they had at length been defeated, in renewed battles, attended on both sides with great slaughter †. In the desolate state in which intestine

* Brady's History of England, p. 117. † Saxon Chron. p. 133.

testine warfare always leaves a country, this remained till the year 1010; when the Danes returned, and landed at Ipswich with a recruited army. Between them and the forces under Ulfkettle, a most sanguinary battle was fought at *Ringmere:* this terminating in favour of the Danes, they, from that time, repossessed themselves of East-Anglia. The Danish Earl Turkill, or Turketel, expelled the Saxon Earl Ulfkettle, and held the government till the year 1013; when *Sweyne* was proclaimed King of England. The new monarch continued Turketel in his office, and as a reward for his eminent services, bestowed on him the custody of the castle of Norwich. On the death of Sweyne, which happened the same year, *Canute,* who had succeeded to the throne, finding his tenure precarious, retired to Denmark; and the people again affixed the crown on the head of *Ethelred,* who dying in 1016, his son *Edmund,* surnamed *Ironsides,* ascended the throne; in which year Canute returned with fresh levies of troops, and was again proclaimed king. After various struggles, these competitors agreed to divide the kingdom, and each to possess supreme dominion over a moiety. Under this compact, the Danish sovereign was to retain the whole of Northumbria, Mercia, and East-Anglia. On this occasion the kingdom became separated into three grand districts, and the latter portion, belonging to the Danes, was called *Denelege,* i. e. the Danish jurisdiction. Edmund being assassinated by his brother, A. D. 1017, Canute reigned alone, and divided England into four districts. The government of East-Anglia, with the title of Duke, he committed to Turketel; whom, for some misconduct, he afterwards banished. During the whole of the Danish dynasty, this part of the kingdom groaned under its yoke, being heavily oppressed, for the repeated efforts it had made to repel the inroads of the Danes; and the energies it had wielded to prevent their establishment. On the death of Hardicanute, in the year 1041, *Edward the Confessor,* by general consent, ascended the throne. He expelled the Danes from the kingdom, and abolished *Danegelt,* which had become an oppressive tax;

and

and annexed East-Anglia to his own dominions, having been the only kingdom of the heptarchy, which had not been previously united under his great predecessor, Egbert. In the time of William Rufus, Norfolk was a scene of confusion, by Roger Bigod having sided with *Robert Curthose* against the king; in which contest the county suffered very considerable devastation. During the commotions excited in the kingdom by the unnatural attempt of Prince Henry to arrest the crown from the head of his father King Henry the Second, this county largely participated in the disasters which arise from civil discord. Earl Bigod espoused the prince's cause, but the king's troops being victorious, the Flemings, in the pay of the prince, were permitted to return to their own country, and Bigod purchased his peace at the expence of 1000 marks *.

In the turbulent reign of *John*, Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, took part with the refractory *barons*. And while they were taking cities and towns in one part of the kingdom, John was laying waste, with fire and sword, the baronial possessions in another. In this career he came to *Lynn*, where, being well received, he crossed the washes, with the loss of his baggage, to the abbey of Swineshead, in his way to Newark castle, where he died. After this the county was over-run by *Prince Lewis*, who exacted heavy contributions. In *Richard the Second's* time, a powerful insurrection broke out under two brothers, *John* and *Matthew Tiler*, commonly called *Jack Straw* and *Wat Tiler;* whose standards were joined by numbers of the lower classes, and Norwich was invested by the rebels collected under one *Litester*. But he being taken and arraigned for treason, was condemned to be hanged, drawn, and quartered; one portion of his body to be suspended at his own residence, one in the city of Norwich, one at Lynn, and another at Yarmouth; which so dispirited his adherents, that they dispersed, and an end was put to the rebellion of the *Norfolk levellers*.

After

* Blomefield's "*Essay towards a History of Norfolk*," 8vo. 1806, Vol. III. p. 32. This edition will be always referred to in the present volume.

After the accession of *Henry the Seventh*, to the throne, a person, named *Simnel*, counterfeiting Edward Plantagenet, then a close prisoner in the Tower of London, contrived to deceive the people so far, as to influence them to proclaim him king, and accordingly he was crowned at Dublin. Henry, doubtful of the loyalty of those inhabiting the eastern part of the country, or apprehensive that the pretender would attempt a landing on this part of the coast, went in person through the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk. Having staid some time at St. Edmund's Bury, he proceeded to Norwich, where he kept his Christmas; and thence went in pilgrimage to the chapel of our lady of *Walsingham*, to pray for succour; and when the alarm of invasion had subsided, he sent his banner as an acknowledgment for his deliverance; and having left every thing quiet, he returned to the capital *. Two rebellions broke out in the reign of *Edward the Sixth*, owing to a system of enclosing, adopted by the nobility and gentry, who had been put in possession of the abbey lands. Though they happened in remote parts of the kingdom, Norfolk and Devon, the coincidence of these shew, that they were the consequence of previous communications and a preconcerted plan. The rebels having imbibed the spirit of the ancient levellers, abolishing distinction of ranks, they proceeded to execute their nefarious designs under two ringleaders, by the names of *Ket*. They fixed their grand rendezvous on *Mousehold* heath, near Norwich. Here the elder, Robert Ket, with assistant deputies from every hundred, held his councils under a large tree, styled *The Oak of Reformation*, from which he pretended to administer justice, and issued his edicts for contributions. Long did the country labour under the exactions, and other acts of outrage committed by this banditti; all attempts to quell the insurrection having been ineffectual, till a large army raised to proceed against the Scots, was sent against the insurgents under the command of the Earl of Warwick: when Robert Ket was taken and the rebels dispersed. Thus,

* Bacon's History of Henry the Seventh, Fol. 32.

Thus, as Fuller observes, " rage was conquered by courage, rebellion by loyalty, and number by valour," the 27th day of August, 1549. By a manuscript account, in the library of Caius College Cambridge, it appears, that this rebellion cost the king much treasure, as well as the lives of many noble persons and valiant soldiers.

" *The Rebellion.*

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| The counties of Norfolk, Devon, and Cornwall, cotes and conduct | 6,446 | 12 | 2 |
| Dyet and wages | 18,827 | 19 | 6 |
| Emtions of necessaries | 47 | 11 | 8 |
| Divers and sundry necessary charges and expences, breaking down of bridges, carriage, and reward | 2,008 | 4 | 3" |

At the commencement of the unhappy dissensions, which arose between Charles the First and his disaffected subjects, Norfolk took a decisive part. When the parliament had voted the necessity of taking up arms, July 12th, 1642, the inhabitants of this county generally approved of that determination. At an early period of the contest, Norwich was fortified against the royal party. Norfolk formed one of the *associated counties* placed under the command of the Earl of Manchester: the others were *Suffolk*, *Cambridge*, *Hertford*, and *Essex*, to which *Lincoln* was afterwards added. In 1643, a tax was levied by the parliament for the use of its army, to be paid by weekly instalments. This county, on that occasion, contributed 1250l. which was raised by the following assessments:

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| " The city of Norwich with the Christ church liberty | 53 | — | — |
| Yarmouth | 34 | 6 | 5 |
| Thetford | 5 | 11 | 9 |
| Lynn | 27 | 11 | 10 |
| The county at large | 1129 | — | —" |

The

The king's forces, at no period of the struggle, appear to have made much impression in the county. Lynn was in possession of the royalists, but was quickly besieged and taken by the troops under Lord Manchester. The city and other towns were garrisoned with parliamentarian forces, and the whole of the county was overawed after the king was beheaded; when it readily submitted to the usurpation of the protector.

Encampments, Roman Roads, &c. From the foregoing particulars, it is evident that Norfolk must have been the region of many battles, and have been alternately occupied by warriors of different nations and parties. In proportion to the power and skill of these, would be the fortifications they constructed; and as the latter were destroyed or injured, they would be enlarged and altered by successive possessors. In addition to the five Roman stations already mentioned, some writers have considered *Ickborough*, north of Brandon, as a sixth; and have identified it as the *Iciani* of the itinerary. Roman Coins, and other vestiges, have been found in various parts of the county, particularly at Brompton, at Buckenham, and at Thetford; but these furnish no decisive proof that such places have either been occupied by the Romans, as stations or as exploratory camps. That "all Roman fortifications were *quadrilateral* is beyond dispute, and it is equally ascertained that those of the Anglo-Saxons, Danes, and Britons were *circular**;" are positions which must surprise all who have been in the habit of examining such remains. The Romans, if we judge from those works usually attributed to them, appear to have paid more attention to the *form* of the ground they fortified, and its natural capabilities for defence, than to any *geometrical* figure; and the Britons seem to have acted in a similar manner. At *South Creak*, in the north part of the county, where a desperate battle was fought between the Anglo-Saxons and the Danes, are vestiges of a circular Saxon encampment,

* History and Antiquities of the county of Norfolk, Vol. I. p. 119.

encampment, which still retains the name of *Blood-gate*. Near Weeting are the remains of another, consisting of a vallum and fossum, known by the name of *The Foss*. Near it are places of sepulture, called *Grimes Graves*. At Narbury is a small circular fort, said to have been occupied, if not thrown up, by the Danes, when they landed on this part of the coast, A. D. 1003.

Besides the military fortifications in the county, several of the old halls were formerly encompassed with moats, and their entrances protected by towers, strong doors, bridges, &c. Remains of some of these features are still preserved in *Oxborough Hall*, in *Stifkey Hall*, in *Castor Castle*, in *Baconthorpe Hall*, *Hunstanton Hall*, *Gaywood*, *Scale's Hall*, *Fincham Hall*, &c.

Of the *viæ militares*, or great *Roman Roads*, made for the convenience of carriages, and facilitating the marching of the army, few perfect vestiges remain in Norfolk. But as several important stations were formed within the county, no doubt can be entertained that such roads once existed, though the traces of most of them are now obliterated. It was the custom of the Romans to open this kind of communication between all their stations, and many appearances of such are still to be seen in those parts of the adjoining county of Cambridge which abut upon this *; and in a direction as though they had come from the eastern part. A great Roman road connected the south eastern and north western parts of the kingdom; and another formed a similar communication between the north eastern and the south western extremities. This commencing on the coast of Norfolk, probably at Burg near Yarmouth, passed by Castor, and is now conspicuous near Downham; crossing the river Ouse, it passes through the fens into Cambridgeshire, and proceeding through the central counties, joins the Julia-strata, and terminates at St. David's head. Sir William Dugdale says it was discovered in the fens sixty feet wide and three feet deep, and formed of compact gravel. Its direction was from Downham in Norfolk, through Plaitfield, and Charke, to

* Lysons's Cambridgeshire, p. 44.

to the high grounds about March; then it proceeded by Eldon-Hall to Whittlesea and Peterborough, from which last place it has recently been traced to Castor in Northamptonshire.

Of the *Chimini minores*, or vicinal roads, some traces are still visible. What is called *Pedder's-way*, passing from Thetford by Ickborough, Swaffham, Castle-Acre, Fring, Ringshead, to the sea, near Brancaster, appears one of this sort. The road leading by Long Stratton to Tasburg, was probably another, whilst a third branched off from this to the north-west, going through Marsh-land, Upwell, and Elm, to Wisbeach. What is called the *Milky-way*, has been considered Roman; but is more likely of later date, and was probably made for the convenience of the devotees, who went on pilgrimage to the chapel of our Lady of Walsingham. It is traceable in several places, and is pretty perfect in the vicinity of Grimes Graves.

Several *barrows*, or *tumuli*, are to be found in different parts of the county, particularly in the neighbourhood of Creek, Ammor, Rudham, Sedgeford, Stifkey, Long-Stratton, Weeting, Norwich, and Walsingham. In some, which have been opened, different relics have been discovered, as human bones, wood-ashes, and urns made of baked clay*. These were sometimes encompassed with large stones, forming a sort of cell, or kist-vaen; and in some of the barrows have been discovered missile instruments, with implements, which are considered by some antiquaries to have been originally employed in sacrifice.

On Mousehold Heath, near Norwich, are many excavations in the earth, which Mr. King and some other authors have called *hiding pits*, or British caves. Several of a similar character are to be seen on the downs of Wiltshire and Dorsetshire.

Ecclesiastical History and Jurisdiction of the Diocese; with a brief account of the Bishops, &c.—Soon after the

* In the year 1658, Dr. Browne published an account of some of these in a small volume, entitled, "Hydriotaphia, *Urne-Buriall, or a Discourse of the Sepulchrall Urnes lately found in Norfolk*," &c.

the settlement of the Saxons in East-Anglia, the Christian religion was introduced into this part of the island; and it is related, that *Sigibert*, son of Roderic, king of the East-Angles, was the first to establish it here. He had been banished by his eldest brother Erpenwald into France, where he contracted an intimacy with a religious Burgundian, named FELIX, who prevailed on him to adopt the Christian faith.

On the death of Erpenwald, Sigebert returned to Britain, and was elected in the room of his brother, king of East-Anglia. His predilection after his conversion increased towards Felix, who had accompanied him from France. He first made him chaplain and confessor, and then encouraged him to undertake the conversion of his subjects. Upon this arduous task, so congenial to his mind, Felix cheerfully entered. Charmed by the impressive eloquence of the evangelist, and incited by the royal example, numerous converts were soon made, schools were instituted, and churches erected for public worship. Over these Felix was appointed to preside, under the title of bishop; and, after having been consecrated by Honorious, Archbishop of Canterbury, A.D. 630, he fixed his seat or see at *Silthestow*, afterwards called *Dunwich*, in the county of Suffolk. Such was his piety and zeal, and so extensive was the fame he acquired by his eminent services in the church, that after his death, which happened in the year 647, he was canonized as a saint, and his festival, which was annually kept, stands on the 8th of March in the Romish calendar. Of this learned and pious prelate Hardynge thus versifies:

> " At Donmok there, was Felix first byshop.
> Of *Estangle*, and taught the Chrysten fayth
> That is full hye in Heven, I hope."
>
> *Cronicle in Metre*, cap. 91.

2. THOMAS, who had been deacon to *Felix*, succeeded him. Having been initiated and trained up in the Christian doctrine under Paulinus, Archbishop of York, to whom he had been appointed

pointed deacon, on the expulsion of that metropolitan from his see, Thomas served the same office, under Felix, till his death. After presiding five years he died in 653, and was succeeded by BONIFACE, who is called by Bede *Bersigel;* by Florence of Worcester, *Birtgil;* and by Godwin, *Bregil.* He was a native of Kent, a priest of Canterbury, and consecrated by the archbishop of that see by *Deusdedit*, A.D. 653 *; and dying, A.D. 669, was succeeded by BISUS, or *Bosa*, who was consecrated by Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury. In his declining years, growing infirm, and inadequate to perform the labours of his diocese, he obtained permission to divide it into two sees; fixing the one at Dunwich, and the other at *North Elmham*, in Norfolk.

Subsequent to this partition of the East-Anglian diocese, the bishops of NORTH ELMHAM were the following:—

1. BEDWINUS, *Baldwinus*, or *Beadwine*, was consecrated 673, and assisted Acca, in 675, to place the veil upon the head of St. Ossyth. Pitts gives him a high character for profound learning, and exemplary virtue; and asserts, that by his numerous writings, though his works are now lost, he confirmed many people in the Christian faith.

2. NORTHBERTUS, *Northhert*, or *Rothbert*, succeeded Bedwinus some time after the year 679.

3. HEDULACUS, *Hadulac*, or *Hatholac*, was bishop of this see at the time Bede completed his Ecclesiastical History, A.D. 731.

4. EDELFRIDUS, *Ethelfrith*, or *Ethelferth*, succeeded; and

5. LAMFERTHUS, or *Lameferd*, followed; but at what time is not satisfactorily ascertained.

6. ATHELWALFUS or *Æthelwolph* occupied the see in 811; for in that year, as a witness of confirmation, he signed the charter granted by Kenulph, King of Mercia, for founding the monastery of Winchcombe, in the county of Glocester †.



* Prideaux's History of East-Anglia, fo. 151.

† Atkyns's History of Gloucestershire, p. 436. 2nd Edit.

7. UNFERTUS, *Alberth*, or Alcar, was bishop about the year 787; for he attended in that year the synod of Cloveshoe, in the county of Berks, which Offa, a King of Mercia, convened for the purpose of erecting a new bishopric at Lichfield, in the county of Stafford *.

8. SIBBA, *Sibban*, or *Siga*, sat in the year 816.

9. HUNFERTH, *Hunferd*, or *Hufred*, was consecrated by *Wilfred*, Archbishop of Canterbury, and was living in the year 824.

10. HUMBERT, or *Humbrit*, was consecrated about the year 826. He performed the ceremony of crowning Edmund, King of the East-Angles, December the 25th, A. D. 856; and, together with that monarch, fighting in defence of Christianity, were slain, November 20th, A. D. 870, or, as stated by Godwin, 871. On account of suffering in the defence of truth, they were considered by the church as martyrs to the faith; and accordingly both were canonized as saints. After the death o St. Humbert,

11. WYBRED, *Wyred*, or *Wildred* was appointed bishop of both the sees of Norfolk and Suffolk; which having united, he fixed the episcopal seat at *Elmham* †.

From the confusion of the times, owing to the repeated inroads of the Danes, the accounts at this period, including some time previous, as well as subsequent to it, are extremely inaccurate, and in many instances contradictory. Godwin asserts, that by reason of the Danish incursions, the two sees of Dunwich and Elmham were void for nearly a century ‡. This statement, from the circumstances of the times, is probable, because the Danes then possessed East-Anglia. On the other hand, it is not likely, that the Archbishop of Canterbury, while Danish possession was considered usurpation, would permit the sees to be void, or the Christians, who fled from the pagan persecution, to be without spiritual guides; nor those pastors, who escaped with them, to exercise their functions, exclusive of episcopal guidance and control. Wharton, with more reason, observes,

* Godwin de Præsulibus Anglicanis.

† Wharton's Anglia Sacra, Vol. I. fo. 404. ‡ De Præsu. Angli.

observes, on a view of the succession list, that as it is evident Humbert and Weremund both died about 870; and that these prelates were conjointly succeeded by Wybred or Wilred: if the latter lived to a mature age, there exists no necessity for supposing such a vacancy to have happened; for thus bishops of Elmham appear to have existed agreeably to the period persons might be reasonably supposed to have lived, including the time that Theodred might have been bishop, prior to the year 945*.

*Bishops of Elmham after the Union of the Sees.*

1. THEODRED the first, or *Teodred,* is reported to have been an eye-witness of St. Edmund's corpse being found uncorrupt; when, having fasted three days, he washed the saint's body, and clothing it with fresh garments, reposited it in the same coffin, A. D. 945.

2. THEODRED the second, surnamed the *Good,* was first Bishop of London, and then of Elmham; both of which he held till he died, sometime after A. D. 962 †.—In the catalogues, given by most writers upon the subject, both the Theodreds have been misplaced in point of time, Athulf having been inserted before them; which has occasioned such confusion in assigning dates to events, connected with their lives, that Wharton was induced to confess, after a long and fruitless enquiry, the exact period was not known, when the Theodreds sat as bishops of Elmham ‡.

3. ATHULF, *Adulf,* or *Eadulf,* has been erroneously placed as



* Wharton's Anglia Sacra, p. 480.

† This is stated in the White Register of the Abbey of St. Edmund's Bury. *Registrum Album, fol.* 21, 2. From the Bishop's Will, it appears, that he held the Bishopric of Elmham in *commendam* with that of London. And this probably had been the case in more instances, during those troubles, which prevented bishops residing, or exercising jurisdiction in East-Anglia; some other prelate being regularly appointed *titular* bishop of this see, till a diocesan was able to resume his seat and his functions within the province.

‡ Anglia Sacra, Vol. I. p. 405.

sitting prior to the Theodreds in this see; for, in his *episcopal* character, he signed King Edgar's charter to the church of York, granted in the year 963. Weever says, that he constantly resided at Elmham *; and was appointed by King Edwy, in the year 966.

4. ALFRIC, *Alfrid*, or *Ailfric*, was one of the number who signed and confirmed the charter of King Edgar to the Abbey of Croyland, in the county of Lincoln. He had been a monk of Glastonbury Abbey, in Somersetshire, and died A. D. 975, at the close of King Edgar's reign.

5. ATHELSTANE, *Edelstane*, or *Elstane*, was consecrated the latter part of the same year; for Thomas of Ely says, he was bishop in the time of Edgar; and that monarch died at the end of 975.

6. ST. ALGARC, or *Algare*, who had been confessor to Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, was promoted to this see in the year 1012; and in 1018 he signed the charter granted by King Canute to the church of Canterbury. He resigned the bishopric, and retired to the monastery of Ely, where he died on Chrismas Eve, A. D. 1021.

7. ALFWIN, *Elfwin*, or *Eldwin*, succeeded the same year. He removed the body of St. Edmund from the monastery of Bury, and by translating it to London, placed it out of the reach of the sacrilegious Dane, Earl Turketil, who at that time exercised his ravages over the whole province of East-Anglia. Alfwin, for his meritorious conduct, had been appointed by his predecessor in the see to the important trust of *Custos corporis Sancti Edmundi, regis & martyri, i. e.* Guardian of King Edmund, the holy martyr's corpse. This prelate was a decided friend and partizan of the monks, or, as they were called, the *Regulars*, against the *Seculars;* bestowing upon them distinguished favours. To the monastery of Bury he granted exemption from all spiritual jurisdiction; and extended the same privilege to the inhabitants of the town, and for a mile in diameter round it: which

* Funeral Monuments, 4to. p. 514.

which privileged territory, *according to the prevailing custom*, was discriminated by *four Crosses*, erected at the extremities of the line of demarcation. He resigned, or died, A. D. 1032*.

8. ALFRIC, the second, *Ailfric*, or *Aluric*, succeeded, and died A. D. 1038.

9. ALFRIC, the third, surnamed the *Little*, who had previously been prior of Ely Abbey, died A. D. 1139†.

10. STIGAND, who was chaplain to King Harold Harefoot, having obtained this see by simony, was ejected by King Hardicanute in the year 1040‡.

11. GRIMKETEL, *Grimkettle*, or *Grunketel*, held it in commendam with the bishopric of the *South Saxons*, during the remainder of Hardicanute's reign; but on the death of that monarch, Stigand having obtained power under Edward the Confessor, was restored, and appointed chaplain to this King. and preferred to Winchester. In 1070, he was deprived of his mitre, and died at Winchester the same year §.

12. EGELMAR, *Ailmar*, or *Almar*, on the advancement of his brother Stigand, succeeded in the year 1067; but was shortly after, by a synod held at Winchester, for no other crime than *consanguinity* or *connubiality*, also degraded, and deprived of holy orders ‖. The crimes alledged against him were, that he was the brother of Stigand, who had sided with Earl Morcar, and that he had married previous to his accepting the bishopric!! On the deposition of Egelmar,

13. HERFAST, or *Arfast*, chaplain to William the Conqueror, was made bishop at Easter, 1070. In compliance of an order in a council, held by *Lanfrank*, that all episcopal sees should be

 removed

* Dugdale's Monasticon Anglicanum, Vol. I. p. 294.

† Registrum de Pinchebek, fol. 322.—These three have generally been confounded as one person.

‡ Dart's History of Canterbury, fol. 115, where is a long account of this Bishop.

§ Dugd. Monast. Angl. Vol. I. p. 196.

‖ Brady's History of England, p. 213.

removed from villages to the most eminent cities or towns in the respective dioceses, Herfast translated the see of *Elmham* to THETFORD. He was by birth a Norman, a great favorite of the Conqueror's, and Chancellor of England. He died in the year 1084, when

14. WILLIAM GALSAGUS, *Bellfagus* de Bellafago, or *Beaufo*, was appointed in 1085, and consecrated the following year. He was also one of the Conqueror's favourites; had been his chaplain, and was afterwards made Chancellor. His immense wealth, at his death, which happened A. D. 1091, was by his Will divided between his family and see. In his time, the celebrated survey, called *Domesday*, was made, in which, at folio 145, is contained an enumeration of the estates then belonging to the bishopric; and at folio 148, is an account of the lands of the said William, either in fee or inheritance. As many of the latter were bequeathed to the bishopric, the revenues of the see at that period may nearly be ascertained. All these were alienated in the exchange made by Henry the Eighth.

BISHOPS *of* NORWICH.—1. HERBERT LOSINGA, having removed the see from Thetford to Norwich, and through the favour of Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, obtained by grant and purchase certain lands, called Cowholm, he commenced the execution of his favourite plan of building a magnificent cathedral. The first stone was laid by the Bishop in the year 1096, with this inscription engraved upon it, commemorative of the event:

> "DOMINUS HERBERTUS POSUIT PRIMUM LAPIDEM,
> IN NOMINE PATRIS, FILII, ET SPIRITUS SANCTI.
> AMEN."

He erected a palace also for his residence on the north side, and a monastery on the south side, which he provided with sixty monks; all which proceedings were confirmed by Pope Paschal. He was abbot of Ramsay and Lord Chancellor, and dying, A. D.

A. D. 1119, was buried before the high altar of his new cathedral.

2. EBORARD, or EVERARD, Archdeacon of Salisbury, after a vacancy of nearly three years, was advanced to the see, being consecrated June 12th, 1121. In this prelate's time the Jews crucified a boy, named William, who being considered a martyr, and canonized, brought much profit to the church, by the numerous pilgrimages made annually on this occasion. Eborard divided the Archdeaconry of Suffolk into two. He was the founder of the hospital, and church of St. Paul, in Norwich; and a great benefactor to the monastery, which had been endowed by his predecessor. He retired from his diocese to Fountain's Abbey, in the county of York, where he died, October 12, 1149.

3. WILLIAM TURBUS, *De Turba Villa*, or *Tuberville*, a prior of Norwich, was elected by the monks in the year 1146, on the resignation, or, as some assert, the deposition of Eborard. He was a strong partizan and advocate of *Becket*, the arrogant Archbishop of Canterbury; who, though banished, had so much influence over Turbus, as to instigate him to excommunicate the Earl of Norfolk, the Bishop of London, and some other nobles: for which he was forced to fly to his monastery for sanctuary, till he found means to appease the King's wrath. In confirmation of the Charter of Covenants, between King Stephen and Henry Duke of Normandy, he signed *before the Bishop of London*; which is a proof, that precedence then took place of *seniority* on the bench. In the year 1171, the cathedral was much damaged by accidental fire; and before it could be thoroughly repaired, the Bishop died, A. D. 1174, and was interred on the north side of the choir.

4. JOHN OF OXFORD, Dean of Salisbury, was elected November 26, 1175. His surname he derived from the place of his birth. He took part with Henry the Second against the insolent Becket; by which he greatly ingratiated himself with his sovereign. The King, desirous of having the laws of his realm more strictly executed, and a more impartial administration of

justice, appointed the Bishops of Norwich, Ely, and Winchester his three principal justices for the purpose. John built the church of the Holy Trinity in Ipswich; was a great benefactor to the episcopal convent at Norwich; and completed the reparation of the damages, which the cathedral had sustained in the time of the preceding bishop. He died June 2, 1200, and lies buried in the choir, near the remains of Bishop Turbus.

5. JOHN DE GREY was promoted to the see by King John, and consecrated September 24th, 1200. He built the palace of *Gaywood*, near Lynn; obtained a charter to make that town a free borough; and procured the liberties of Magna Charta for his diocese. These concessions the King was induced to grant, either to obtain favors, or in return for some he had received. The wealth of this prelate had been of great service to the monarch during his troubles; and for various loans he had obtained, he pledged to the Bishop the *regalia*, viz. his great crown, the gilt sword, the surcoat, cloak, dalmatic, girdle, sandals, gloves, and spurs. The Bishop died at Poictou, October 18th, 1214. After his death the see was vacant seven years; when

6. PANDULPHUS, surnamed *Masca*, an *Italian*, was consecrated May 29th, 1222. He was sent to England as legate by the Pope, on account of the deposition of Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, by King John. While at Rome, to have his election to this see confirmed, on his representation, that it was greatly in debt, he obtained a grant of the whole *first fruits* of the clergy in his diocese, for himself and successors; and these remained attached to the prelates till the time of Henry the Eighth. He died in Italy, September 26, 1226; but was brought to England for interment, and was buried in his cathedral.

7. THOMAS DE BLANDEVILL, or *Blennville*, was consecrated A. D. 1226, and died August 16th, 1236, when

8. RALFO was elected in his stead, and died the next year.

9. WILLIAM DE RALEIGH obtained the bishopric, after three years contesting his right. He granted an indulgence of twenty days pardon to all persons in his diocese, who would contribute towards

towards the building of St. Paul's church in London. Hence it appears, that *bishops* as well as *popes*, in those times of superstition, could give a licence to sin with impunity: "hinc lachrymæ rerum!!!" Being translated to Winchester, he there died soon after his induction.

10. WALTER DE SUTHFIELD, or *Suffield*, was elected by the monks, and consecrated in the year 1244. He obtained for the bishopric a charter of *free warren* to himself and successors. By the command of Pope Innocent, he drew up a general and particular valuation of all the ecclesiastical revenues in the kingdom; which, after receiving the papal confirmation, was called the *Norwich-Inquest;* and subsequently became the ratio of clerical taxation. He erected, and endowed the *Hospital of St. Giles* for poor pilgrims, and built the chapel of the blessed virgin in the cathedral; and dying May 18th, 1257, was interred in his chapel before the high altar.

11. SIMON DE WALTONE, or WANTON, was consecrated in 1258: after sitting nearly eight years, he died in 1265, and was buried by the side of his predecessor, in the same chapel.

12. ROGER DE SKEREWING, or *Skerning*, prior of Norwich, was appointed, and confirmed by the pope's legate the same year. In his time, several dreadful affrays happened between the citizens and monks, in one of which the cathedral was burnt. He died January 22nd, 1278; and was buried near Bishop Suffield.

13. WILLIAM MIDDLETON, archdeacon of Canterbury, succeeded February 24th, 1278. The cathedral having been partially repaired, he was enthroned at Norwich; and re-dedicated the church for divine worship, in presence of the king and queen and the principal nobility, who were assembled on the occasion. He died September 1st, 1288, and was interred in St. Mary's chapel.

14. RALPH DE WALPOLE, or *Walpool*, archdeacon of Ely, was elected November 11th, 1288, and translated to Ely in 1299. From him are descended the present noble family of the *Walpoles*.

15. JOHN

15. JOHN SALOMON, or *Salmon*, prior of Ely, was chosen by the interest of Pope Boniface, the same year. He enlarged, or rebuilt the palace at Norwich, was founder of the Charnel house, now the free school; and dying July 6th, 1325, after a long sitting of twenty-six years, and is supposed to have been buried in the chapel of his own palace.

16. ROBERT DE BALDOK was elected July 21st, 1325, and confirmed by the archbishop; but waving his election in submission to the pope, he resigned September 3rd, in the same year.

17. WILLIAM DE AYRMINNE, or *Ermine*, was made bishop, A. D. 1325. By permission from the king, he enclosed his palace, cathedral, &c. with stone walls, and fortified them with embattled parapets; in which state they long remained a monument of the ferocious manners of the times. He died March 27th, 1336, and lies buried before the high altar in the cathedral.

18. THOMAS HEMENHALE, a monk of Norwich, was elected April 5th, 1337; but while at Rome, endeavouring to get his election confirmed, he gave in his resignation, and accepted in lieu the see of Worcester.

19. ANTHONY DE BECK, or *Beke*, was appointed bishop of Norwich by papal mandate, A. D. 1337. He was a man of the most imperious temper, and quarrelling with the monks, was, as supposed, by their instigation, poisoned by his own servants, at his seat of Hevingham, A. D. 1343; and lies buried in the cathedral.

20. WILLIAM BATEMAN, dean of Lincoln, by an unanimous vote succeeded him the same year. He was a great benefactor to the nunnery of Flixton in South Elmham, and gave the nuns a body of statutes for their regulation; and, A. D. 1347, founded *Trinity Hall* in Cambridge, for the express purpose of supplying his diocese with persons properly qualified to discharge the important duties of parochial cures. He died at Avignon in Provence, while on an embassy to the pope, A. D. 1354.

21. THOMAS PERCY, youngest brother of the Earl of Northumberland succeeded, though but twenty-two years of age, by a papal

a papal declaration, A. D. 1355. He repaired the choir, which had been much damaged, and erected the *steeple* of the cathedral, which had been blown down by a violent wind, in the year 1361. He died at Blofield, August 8th, 1369, and was buried immediately in front of the rood loft in the cathedral. After the see had been vacant a short time it was filled by

22. HENRY SPENCER, or *Le Spencer*, a prebendary of Salisbury, who was *consecrated by the pope in person*, March 16th, 1370. In an aid, granted throughout the kingdom to the king's use, this prelate certified for his diocese, that it contained in Norfolk 806 parishes, and in Suffolk 515; and each county was accordingly rated. He took a very active part in the pontifical warfare between the *Urbanists* and the *Clementines*, heading an army in France on the occasion. He was an enthusiastic zealot, an avowed enemy to innovation, and so rigorous in his measures against Lollardism, that he enjoined Sir Thomas Erpingham, as a penance for his favoring Wickliffe, to build the *Gate* at the entrance of the college precinct, which still goes by the knight's name. He died August 23, 1406, and was interred before the high altar on the south side of the founder's tomb. He was the first prelate who quartered the episcopal arms with his own.

23. ALEXANDER DE TOTINGTON, prior of Norwich, was immediately elected, but not admitted to his spiritualities till 1407, nor to his temporalities till 1408. He expended large sums in repairing the episcopal manor houses and palaces, which were greatly dilapidated, through the negligence of his predecessors. He died in the year 1413, and was buried in St. Mary's chapel, at the east end of the cathedral.

24. RICHARD DE COURTNEY, or *Courtency*, chancellor of Oxford, was made bishop, A. D. 1413, and died suddenly at the siege of Harfleur, September 14th, 1415.

25. JOHN WAKERYNG, archdeacon of Canterbury, was elected by the monks, A. D. 1416. He was confirmed by the *archbishop*, owing to a schism which then existed in the papal hierarchy: three popes at the same time prefering a legal claim to the papal chair,

chair, as the lineal descendants of St. Peter! He built that part of the cloister which extended from the palace to the door of the cathedral; ornamented the floor with a chequered pavement of variegated marble, and covered it in with a handsome fretwork roof of stone. He also built, or beautified, the chapter house, which has been demolished. Dying April 9th, 1425, he was interred in the cathedral on the south side of the founder, before the altar of St. George.

26. WILLIAM ALNWICK, or *Anewiek*, archdeacon of Salisbury, succeeded February 27th, 1426, by virtue of a papal mandate. He sate ten years, and was translated to Lincoln. The principal entrance of the palace was erected at his expence, and by his arms being united with those of the see on the west end of the cathedral, he appears to have contributed towards the erection of that also.

27. THOMAS BROWN, or *Breus*, bishop of Rochester, was translated by Pope Eugenius the fourth, to the bishopric of Norwich by bull, dated September 19th, 1436. He left a sum towards the payment of the city tax, and exhibitions for poor scholars, prosecuting their studies in the universities, who might be natives of the diocese. He died at Hoxnè, A. D. 1445, and lies buried at the altar of St. William, before the rood-loft, which he had erected in the nave of the cathedral. JOHN STANBERY, a Carmelite friar, was chosen, but never consecrated, owing to the papal interference, which about this period seems to have been at its greatest height.

28. WALTER HART, or *Lyhart*, master of Oriel college in Oxford, was appointed by the pope, and consecrated February 27th, 1446. He paved the cathedral, erected the elegant carved roof of the nave, where a *hart*, or deer couchant, in sculpture, alluding to his name, is seen in several places. Dying May 26th, 1472, he was buried near his predecessor Brown.

29. JAMES GOLDWELL, the Pope's prothonotary, was made bishop by papal provision, and consecrated at Rome, by Sixtus the Fourth, October 4th, 1472. Before he left Rome, he obtained

tained of the Pope a perpetual indulgence, to repair and ornament the cathedral, by which he was empowered to grant, to all persons who frequented it annually on Trinity Sunday and Lady-day, *twelve years* and *forty days* pardon, in lieu of offerings made on the occasion; and having received the sum of 2200 marks for dilapidations, he finished beautifying the tower; made the elegant stone-fretted roof of the choir; and ornamented the chapels on each side of it; especially *that* dedicated to the Holy Trinity, in which he was afterwards interred. He died, February 15, 1498, leaving the see to be filled, on the *refusal of Christopher Urswyke*, by

30. THOMAS JANE, Archdeacon of Essex, and Canon of Windsor, who was consecrated July 24, 1499, and died September, 1500; when his remains were deposited in the cathedral, according to his Will.

31. RICHARD NYKKE, or *Nix*, Archdeacon of Exeter, was elected, A. D. 1500. In his time, *Chorepiscopi* were first appointed by Act of Parliament, their office answering to that of suffragans; which, prior to that period, had been chosen at the direction of the diocesan. During his presidency, the exchange was made for alienating the revenues of the diocese, for the Abbacy of Holme, by an agreement between him and the avaricious Henry; though the *actual* alienation did not take place till after the appointment of his successor. Writers unanimously concur to brand this prelate's character with the greatest obloquy. Of his persecuting spirit, no further evidence need be adduced than the fact, that, by his sanguinary judgments, *Ayers*, *Bingy*, *Norrice*, and the amiable *Bilney*, were doomed to a fiery ordeal, for only, in a peaceable manner, expressing those sentiments, which, as they were sanctioned by conscience, they had a right to suppose were the dictates of truth. He died January 14, 1535, and was buried in the cathedral, on the south side of the nave. The roofs of the north and south ailes were rebuilt by him.

32. WILLIAM RUGG, or REPPES, Abbot of St. Bennet's in Holme, was one of those Cambridge divines who assisted in obtaining,

taining, from the University, the judgment King Henry desired, respecting his marriage with his Queen Catherine; for which he was honored with a mitre; agreeing, at the same time, to accept the revenues of his abbey in lieu of those belonging to the bishopric. After this, he resigned them and the see for the paltry pittance of two hundred pounds per annum. He died September 21st, 1550, and was buried in the choir of the cathedral.

33. THOMAS THIRLBY, *first and last Bishop of Westminster*, was, by consent of King Edward the Sixth, translated to the see of Norwich, the first of April, 1550, but was soon removed to Ely, and obtained restitution of the temporalities of that see, in the reign of Mary, September 15, 1554. He died in 1570, and was buried in the chancel of the church of Lambeth. On his translation to Ely,

34. JOHN HOPTON, at one time Prior of the Dominican Monastery, in Oxford, was elected, on the recommendation of the Queen, the second of October, 1554; and having been a most sanguinary persecutor of the *reformed*, on the accession of Elizabeth, died, as is supposed, through fear of retaliating vengeance, and was buried in the cathedral. When the *Dean* and *Chapter* elected for their Bishop,

35. RICHARD COX, D. D., who, during the rage of persecution had fled to Franckfort, in Germany; but, previous to his consecration, the Queen preferred him to the see of Ely, and nominated, as his successor,

36. JOHN PARKHURST, D. D. He also had retired to Zurich, in Switzerland, for conscience sake. He was consecrated to this see, September the first, 1560, by Mathew, Archbishop of Canterbury; Gilbert, Bishop of Bath and Wells; and William, Bishop of Exeter. Having resided principally at his palace of Norwich, which he repaired and much improved; he died February 2, 1574, and lies buried in the nave of the cathedral.

37. EDMUND FREKE, or FREAK, Bishop of Rochester, was translated to Norwich, July 13, 1575, and hence to the see of Worcester, in December, 1584.

38. EDMUND

38. EDMUND SCAMBLER, Bishop of Peterborough, was elected Bishop of Norwich, December 15, 1584. Having sat till 1594, he died at his palace, May 7, and lies interred on the south side of the nave.

39. WILLIAM REDMAN, Archdeacon of Canterbury, was elected Bishop, December 17, 1594, and consecrated in January the following year. He died at his palace, September 25, 1602.

40. JOHN JEGGON, Dean of Norwich, was consecrated at Lambeth, February 20, 1602; but the Queen dying the following month, he was confirmed in his bishopric by her successor, King James the First. In this bishop's time a fire broke out in the palace of *Ludham*, in Norfolk, which consumed the whole of the library, with its manuscripts, rolls, and many valuable documents respecting the diocese. The secretary and chaplain's lodgings escaped the ravages of the flames; those apartments, having been built by Bishop Freke, were *tiled*—the whole building besides was covered with *thatch*. He died, at Aylesham, March 13, 1617, and was buried near the altar in the chancel of that church.

41. JOHN OVERALL, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, was translated to the see of Norwich, May 21, 1618, and died May 12, 1619; and was interred on the south side of the choir, near the steps of the altar.

42. SAMUEL HARSNETT, Bishop of Chichester, was translated to this see, August 8, 1619. He spent most of his time, when absent from his city, at Ludham; at which palace he built a chapel, and consecrated it for divine worship. He sat till November 6, 1627, when he was preferred to the archiepiscopal see of York.

43. FRANCIS WHITE, Bishop of Carlisle, was elected January 22, 1628; and December 8, 1631, translated to the Bishopric of Ely, when

44. RICHARD CORBET, Bishop of Oxford, was preferred to Norwich. He died July 28, 1635, and lies buried in the choir, near the founder's tomb. He left sundry pieces of facetious poetry,

poetry, which, according to Wood, were written in his younger years, and were never intended for publication. However, after his death, they made their appearance, under the title of "*Poetica Stromata,*" or a Collection of "Sundry Pieces of Poetry, Lond. 1647-8, &c." And, last year, a more complete edition, with numerous interesting Notes, and a Life of the Author, was published by Octavius Gilchrist, Esq. F.S.A.; a gentleman who has therein evinced much erudition and genius.

45. MATHEW WREN, Bishop of Hereford, was elected to this see November the 16th, 1635; and having sat till April 1638, he was then translated to Ely. He was long the butt of Prynne, and some other restless malecontents; and the father of that distinguished character, the prince of English architects, *Sir Christopher Wren.*

46. RICHARD MONTAGUE, Bishop of Chichester, who had distinguished himself in almost every species of learning, was translated to this see May 4th, 1638; and died in April 1641. He was buried in the choir of the cathedral; and though so great a man, his remains were covered with a plain flat stone, bearing this modest, but significant inscription:

"Depositum Montacuti, Episcopi."

47. JOSEPH HALL, Bishop of Exeter, was translated to Norwich, November 16, 1641. He lived in those troublesome times, when to be rational, was deemed to be impious; when, to be the friend of order, was to be the abettor of tyranny; and to be unostentatiously devout, was only to be the dumb devotee of a blind superstition. For asserting, with other prelates, their right of voting in the House of Peers, he with them was committed to the Tower. Afterwards, deprived of the temporalities of his see, he was prohibited from exercising any spiritual jurisdiction. And thus, debarred of all his just rights by usurped authority, he died an exiled Bishop, in his own city of Norwich, September 8th, 1656, and was buried in the chancel of the parish church of Heigham, in the suburbs of Norwich.

48. EDWARD

49. EDWARD REYNOLDS, D. D. was consecrated January 6, 1660. He, on entering the see, rebuilt the chapel of the palace, which had been reduced to a heap of ruins by the rabble. He died July 28, 1676, and was interred in a vault in the upper part of his episcopal chapel. He was a most liberal benefactor to the city of Norwich, as his numerous charities shew; and few prelates ever paid more praiseworthy attention to the comforts of his parochial clergy.

50. ANTHONY SPARROW, Bishop of Exeter, was translated to Norwich, August 28, 1676; and sat till May 19, 1685, when he died, and was interred on the north side of the episcopal chapel. To whom succeeded

51. WILLIAM LLOYD, Bishop of Peterborough, who was preferred to Norwich, June 11, 1685. On the accession of the Prince of Orange to the throne of England, refusing to take the oath of abjuration against James the Second, he was deprived of his bishopric, but retiring to Hammersmith, near London, he continued to perform episcopal offices till his death, which happened January 1, 1709.

52. JOHN MOORE was elected May 21, 1691, and, with eight other bishops elected in place of so many deprived, was consecrated July 5, in that year, at St. Mary-le-Bow church, Cheapside, London. He sat sixteen years, and was then translated to Ely, where he died July 31, 1714. He was the most celebrated collector of rare and valuable books in the kingdom. On his demise, his immense library was purchased by King George the First, and presented to the public library in the University of Cambridge.

43. CHARLES TRIMNEL, Archdeacon of Norwich, was elected bishop, January 13, and consecrated February 8, 1707. He was the means of raising large supplies for the unfortunate inhabitants of the Palatinate, on the Rhine; who, through the irruptions and unmerciful exactions of the French, were obliged to leave their country, and seek an asylum in this. Numbers of these persecuted protestants settled in this diocese, and served,

by their arts, and industry, to increase its general welfare; as those, who had come over from Flanders in the reign of Elizabeth, had done before. He sat till 1721, and was then translated to Winchester; on which

54. THOMAS GREEN, Archdeacon of Canterbury, was consecrated bishop of this see, October 8, 1721. He sat till September 4, 1723, and was then removed to Ely; when

55. JOHN LONG, D. D. King's Chaplain in Ordinary, was preferred, by George the First, to this see, on the 2nd of October, 1723. He died in London, October 26, 1727, and was interred in the parish church of St. Margaret, Westminster.

56. WILLIAM BAKER, Bishop of Bangor, was translated to Norwich in the year 1727; and dying at Bath, December 4, 1732, was interred in the abbey church of that city; when he was succeeded by

57. ROBERT BUTTS, Dean of Norwich, who was elected bishop of the see, January 20, and consecrated the 25th of the same month, in the year 1732. In May, 1738, he was preferred to the see of Ely; when

58. THOMAS GOOCH, Bishop of Bristol, was translated to that of Norwich. On his first entrance he repaired and fitted up the palace at a great expense; little having been done to it from the restoration till that time. He opened a new way to it out of the upper close, by which he enabled the dean and chapter to remove a nuisance of long continuance; the cathedral having before been made a common thoroughfare in the time of divine service. He also obtained, from his Majesty, two charters to incorporate the societies, which had been established in Norfolk and Suffolk, for the relief of the widows and orphans of the clergy; by the name of "*The Governors of the Charity for the relief of the poor Widows and Orphans of such clergymen,* as at the time of their deaths, were or shall be possessed of some ecclesiastical benefices within the county of Norfolk, or county and city of Norwich; or within the archdeaconries of Suffolk and Sudbury, or elsewhere in the county of Suffolk." In the midst of beneficent

acts

acts for the good of his diocese, he was removed to Ely in 1748; and was succeeded by

59. SAMUEL LISLE, who was translated from St. Asaph, and sat only one year. He was followed by

60. THOMAS HAYTER, Prebendary of Westminster, who was elected to this see, 1749, and translated to that of London in 1761; when

61. DR. PHILIP YONGE was elected through the recommendation and influence of the Duke of Newcastle. He had previously presided at Bristol, was master of Jesus College, Cambridge, and died in the seventy-third year of his age, in 1783 *. On the 17th of May, in this year,

62. DR. LEWIS BAGOT, who was then Bishop of Bristol, was advanced to this see. In the year 1790 he was translated to the see of St. Asaph, and was succeeded in this, by

63. GEORE HORNE, Dean of Canterbury, who enjoyed it only two years, when he died in January 1792. He was a man of amiable manners, of great learning, and zealously devoted to his professional duties. He published four volumes of *Sermons*, and "*A Commentary on the Psalms*," two vols. 4to. He was also author of a celebrated piece of irony, in reply to Adam Smith's Sketch of Hume's Life.

64. *The Right Honourable* CHARLES MANNERS SUTTON, D. D. was advanced from the deanery of Windsor to this see, on the death of the preceding prelate, and continued to preside here with honor to himself and advantage to his diocese till the year 1805, when he was promoted to the metropolitan see of Canterbury. In the same year,

65. HENRY BATHURST, Dean of Worcester, who had been previously canon of Christ church, Oxford, and prebendary of Durham, was elected, and is the present highly respectable bishop of this diocese.

The continuing the catalogue of bishops down to the present time, differs a little from the arrangement which has hitherto been



* See Gents. Mag. 1783, p. 452.

adopted in the episcopal counties already described; but the change has been made after mature consideration, for two obvious reasons, the one of congruity, and the other of perspicuity. Although the see is now fixed at the principal city in the diocese, yet the functions of it refer to the whole extent; and though the bishop may usually reside there, yet his official acts relate to the different cures within the circumference of his jurisdiction. By pursuing this order also, whatever refers to a general account of it, is collected together, and a concise connected view given of the whole.

The brief particulars respecting the prelacy, have been taken from the most authentic published sources of information which could be procured, and the condensed account here given, as it contains a multiplicity of historic facts, if vouchers had been separately adduced for each, the margin would have been crowded with such numerous references, as might have seemed like an ostentatious display of recondite learning. It has been thought preferable, therefore, to mention in one general note, some of the principal authorities, which for this purpose have been consulted and compared as to facts and dates; and to observe, that where contradictory statements have been given by different authors, the most probable of them have been selected; and where palpable anachronisms have occurred, they have been corrected. Those acquainted with such subjects will acknowledge the difficulty of the task, and the candid enquirer, it is hoped, will have reason to be satisfied*.

* Prideaux's History of East-Anglia, Dugdale's Monasticon Anglicanum, with Stevens's continuation, Wharton's Anglia Sacra, Dart's History of Canterbury, Domesday Book, Godwin de Presulibus Anglicanis, Weever's Ancient Funeral Monuments of Great Britain, &c. Fuller's Church History, Holinshed's Chronicle, Brown's Posthumous Works, Rymer's Fædera, Le Neve's Fasti, Peck's Desiderata Curiosa, Nevile's Norwicus, Bale de Scriptoribus Anglicanis, Wood's Athenæ Oxoniensis, Brady's Introduction to Old English History, and Blomefield's Essay towards a History of the County of Norfolk, collated with the episcopal registers, kept in the registrary of the consistorial court at Norwich.

## Extent, Jurisdiction, Revenues, and Liberties, of the Diocese.

*Extent.*—The diocese of Norwich comprises the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, except four peculiars in the latter county. Three of which belong to the see of Canterbury, viz. Hadleigh, Monk's Illeigh, and Moulton; and Freckenham to the see of Rochester. It includes also fifteen or sixteen parishes in Cambridgeshire. The latter lying on the eastern side of the ancient boundary of Mercia, and originally forming part of the kingdom of East-Anglia, never were attached to the diocese of Lincoln, out of which the see of Ely was taken; but belonged, as they do at present, to that of Norwich*. Spelman says the diocese contains 1121 parishes †, and Beatson in his Political Index repeats the same enumeration; but this, if meant of unconsolidated livings, must be very erroneous, as, A. D. 1371, Bishop Henry Spencer certified to the king, that there were in his diocese 1321 parishes ‡. And if meant to include pluralities as parishes, it will then be far from accurate. Various changes however have at times taken place in this respect, and the number is occasionally fluctuating from different causes.

The number of established clergy resident in the diocese, according to a calculation made in the year 1772 was, beneficed clergy 550, curates 150: from which it is evident there must be a number of pluralities. Mr. Young remarks that not half of the clergymen reside at their livings. An answer returned to a mandamus of Queen Elizabeth by Bishop Parker in 1563 states, "the diocese contains Norfolk and Suffolk, except four peculiars and eleven churches in Cambridgeshire, besides churches void, chapels, and donatives. Thus in the four archdeaconries,



* Lysons's '*Magna Britannia*," Vol. II. p. 16.

† Villare Anglicanum.

‡ Blomefield's Norfolk, Vol. III. p. 156.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Norwich, deanries 12 | rectories 168 | vicarages 41 | void churches 80 |
| Norfolk, ditto 12 | ditto 184 | ditto 36 | ditto, uncertain |
| Suffolk, ditto 13 | ditto 114 | ditto 42 | ditto, ditto, |
| Sudbury, ditto 8 | ditto 182 | ditto 31 | ditto, ditto ." |

The present enumeration, from the best information that can be obtained, is 1354, viz. 802 in Norfolk, 537 in Suffolk, and 15 in Cambridgeshire *jurisdiction.* Formerly there was but one archdeaconry, that of Norfolk. Sudbury was added in the year 1126, Suffolk in 1127, and Norwich in 1200. These are subdivided into 47 deanries, and these, as apportioned to each archdeaconry, are as follows, with the number of parishes contained in each:

| *Archdeaconries.* | *Deanries.* | *Parishes.* |
|---|---|---|
| Norwich ..... | 13 ..... | 365 |
| Norfolk ..... | 12 ..... | 468 |
| Sudbury ..... 8 | } ..... | 523 |
| Suffolk ..... 14 | } | |

The diocese is in the province of Canterbury, and the bishop is a suffragan to that metropolitan. The jurisdiction of the see, as respects its internal regulations, is vested in the bishop, who appoints the four archdeacons as his assistants, (no suffragans having been chosen since the time of Bishop Nix,) a chancellor, registrar, and other officers of his consistorial court.

*Revenues.*—Nurtured by kings, and long under the fostering care of royalty, this diocese rapidly increased in wealth; so that at the time of the great survey, the revenues of it were very considerable, as appears from the enumeration of them in Domesday-book. Subsequent to that era, the bishops of Norwich were generally in the court favor; and as favorites, were preferred to the highest situations of trust and emolument: so that the see often gained some acquisition of wealth from succeeding prelates. In the conqueror's inquest, there is an account taken of twenty-seven manors belonging to this see, besides advowsons, fee-farm rents, &c.

&c. Bishop *Beaufo* died possessed of forty-three manors, many of which at his death, were, by his will, annexed to the episcopal possessions. Hence it appears, at the time Herfast came to it, the see was seized, on a moderate computation, of sixty manors; and the pipe rolls of King John's reign evince that Bishop John de Grey, in the year 1212, answered for thirty-five knight's fees; and in the following year obtained a *quietus*, or writ of acquittance, from the Scotch scutage, for forty-eight knight's fees and three quarters. And although by a multiplicity of changes, from the varied complexion of the times and the political character of the prelates, these were frequently diminished, yet by the act passed February 4th, 1535, which vested the revenues of the diocese in the power of the king, it appears that the bishop possessed twenty-three manors, seventy-three livings, ten palaces, all the knight's fees of the barony, and the *first fruits* of the whole diocese, what no archbishop ever possessed; exclusive of all other episcopal sources of emolument*. By virtue of that act, the whole of these were alienated for ever from the see, except a few presentations, and the palace of Norwich. In lieu of them, to give a kind of colouring to the glaring act of rapacity, the comparatively small revenues of Holme-Abbey were granted to the bishop; and the nefarious transaction was glossed over under the name of *an exchange!* Some few additions were made in the reigns of King Edward the Sixth, and Queen Elizabeth. The bishopric stands charged at present in the king's books at 834l. 11s. 7d. It pays first fruits, but no tenths, those having been discharged by a commutation with Queen Elizabeth for the episcopal manors of Sudborne and Swanton. The present clear yearly value is uncertain, but on the average it is computed to amount to about three thousand five hundred pounds per annum.

*Liberties.*—At an early period this see enjoyed extensive privi-



* The tax, or alms denominated *Peter-pence*, annually paid to the see of Rome, from the establishment of that benevolence in the Saxon times, till the rejection of papal supremacy by Henry the Eighth, was, for this diocese, 20l. 10s.

leges as well as great revenues. To enumerate them would fill several pages. The bishop possessed all the usual powers granted to lay baronies, the liberty of coinage, exemption from all taxes, tallage and customs, except those of the city of London; *jura regalia* within his manors, a coroner and prison for his liberty, and all mulcts and amerciaments from his tenants; the right of choosing a justice for the precinct of his palace, and of acting himself as one of the king's justices of the peace for the city, county, and liberty. All these were confirmed by a charter of inspeximus, granted by King Henry VIII. 29th of March, A. D. 1512. But through many ancient statutes becoming obsolete, the abolition of feudal customs, and various subsequent parliamentary regulations, many of these privileges are abridged, if not disannulled. There is, however, one, which the bishops of Norwich have exercised time immemorial, and as it is peculiar to this diocese, ought not to be omitted. It is the power of uniting any two cures within the diocese, at the time of institution, without regard to their value; and that, either by *personal* or *perpetual* union. The personal union lasts only during the life of the incumbent, and answers to an archiepiscopal dispensation, requiring in this diocese only the *bishop's* consent. The perpetual union is made with the joint consent of patron, incumbent, and bishop, and is equal to a consolidation.

The bishop is a peer of the realm, and sits in the upper house, not only in right of his barony, but as titular *Abbot* of St. Bennet's in Holme: and is the only abbot at present in England.

ABBIES, PRIORIES, and other RELIGIOUS HOUSES.—From the preceding account of the prelacy of this see, it has appeared how the Christian religion, by its connection with secular interests, lost much of its intrinsic excellence, and to what a prodigious height of power, wealth, and grandeur the church had arrived prior to the reformation. In the account of the monastic institutions this will appear still more evident, and the abuses which followed such

such unwarrantable acquisitions will be displayed in a more prominent degree.

As the streams of truth meandered from the fountain, they became less pure the further they flowed, and frequently intermixing with the soils through which they passed, their crystal waters were rendered turbid and feculent by extraneous matter. The simple tenets of the gospel were so intermingled with human errors, and concatenated with human institutions, that the church no longer appeared that modest matron, in the engaging dress of unadorned simplicity, but the bold and disgusting courtezan, bedizened out in meretricious drapery and fulsome finery. The visible church, which originally was simple in its shape, and chaste in its decorations, now began to lose the dignity of elegance by the complexity of its forms, and the crowded assemblage of useless and heterogeneous ornaments. From the time that the sister of St. Anthony retired into a desert, the fashion for seclusion from the world, and religious retirement, became generally prevalent in the eastern churches. And in subsequent ages, the passion for this species of social alienation arose to the most extravagant height of enthusiasm in the western churches. Monasteries absorbed a great portion of wealth and population in every country wherein they were instituted; and the monks, by amassing riches, usurping power, trampling on the laws, and defeating the ends of society, at length, by their arrogance, insolence, and luxury, produced their decline, and facilitated their fall. The numerous distinctions of abbey, priory, convent, nunnery, college, collegiate-church, friery, free-chapel, chantry, hospital, preceptory, commandery, cell, hermitage, guild-houses of alms, lazarettos, or houses for lepers, hospitals, &c. &c. were severally given to these religious, or charitable institutions. Some of which were possessed of exclusive jurisdiction, and peculiar exemptions and privileges; others were dependent, and some were still more subordinate. The preceptories and commanderies of the knights hospitallers, and knights templars, of St. John of Jerusalem, were peculiars, and governed by distinct laws, and privileged by military service. The cells

cells were houses belonging to large monasteries, where the latter sent their junior brethren, when too much crowded at home; or refractory monks to do penance for non-compliance with monastic rules. The nature of the other institutions may be ascertained from the particular descriptions given of them in the course of this work. In the number of these religious foundations, England appears to have been inferior to no country; nor less profuse, in granting means for their support. Many in this kingdom were richly endowed, and from their own history, it appears that luxury kept pace with increasing wealth. Their accumulation of property proceeded in an extensive ratio, and prior to the suppression in the time of Henry the Eighth, they appear to have been possessed of a third part of all the lands in England. When pride, luxury, and licentiousness had, with their train of dependent vices, become inmates of these sacred walls, they, by disgusting the moral feelings of society, inducing the good sense of the nation to enquire into the scandalous abuses, and to question the utility of such institutions to real religion, hastened their dissolution and the abolition of the system on which they were founded.

Norfolk teemed with religious houses: out of one thousand one hundred and forty-eight monasteries seized by Henry the Eighth, after his denial of the papal supremacy, seventy-nine religious or charitable foundations were suppressed in this county. The following, it is presumed, will be found an accurate list of them at the general dissolution in the year 1535.

*A List*

## *A List of the Monasteries, and Monastic Foundations in Norfolk.*

| *Names of Places.* | *Orders.* | *Founded.* | *Granted to.* | *Near.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aldeby | Bendict. Cell | temp. Hen. I. | Dean and Preb. Norwich | Beccles |
| Attleborough | College | 7 Hen. IV. | Rob. Earl Sussex | at Attlebro'. |
| Beeston | AustinCanons P. | temp. John or Hen. III. | SirE.Windham,&c | Holt |
| Bek, or Beck | Hospital | beg. Hen. III. | Sir John Parrot | in Billingford |
| St. Bennet's at Holme | Bened. Abbey | ante 1020 | See of Norwich | Holme |
| Binham | Bened. Cell. | begin. Hen. I. | Tho. Paston, Esq. | Walsingham |
| Blackborough | Bened. Nuns | temp. Hen. II. | Bishops of Norw. | ——— |
| Blakeney | White Friers | 24 Edw. I. | William Rede | Holt |
| Bromehill | Austin Canons | beg. Hen. III. | Christ's College, Cambridge | Weeting |
| Bromholm | Cluniac P. | A. D. 1113 | Tho. Wodehouse | Baketon |
| Buckenham, Old | Austin Canons | temp. Steph. | Sir Tho. Lovell | Thetford |
| Burnham Norton | White Friers | cir. 1241 | Wm. Ld. Cobham | at Burnham |
| Carbrook | Knights Hos. | temp. Hen. II. | Sir R. Gresham & Sir R. Southwell | Watton |
| Castleacre | Clun. P. | cir. 1085 | Tho. D. of Norfolk | Fakenham |
| Caistre | College | temp. Edw. I. | ——— | Yarmouth |
| Chosell | Lazars | ante 1256 | John Dudley, V. Lisle | Ringstead |
| Cokesford | Austin Can. | temp. Steph. | Tho. D. of Norfolk | ——— |
| Crabhouse | Austin Nuns | cir. 1181. | Sir John Gage | Wigenhale |
| Creek | Austin Can. | cir. 1226 | Christ's Coll. Camb. | Wells |
| Dereham, East | Monastery destr. | ante 743 | ——— | ——— |
| Dereham, West | Premonstra. Ab. | A. D. 1188 | Thomas Dereham | ——— |
| Docking | Alien P. | ——— | ——— | Burnham |
| Field-Dalling | Alien P. | temp. Hen. II. | Martyng Hastings & Js. Borne | Holt |
| Flitcham | Austin Cell | temp. Ric. I. | Edw. Ld. Clinton | Lynn |
| Hadescoe | Templars | ante Hen. III. | ——— | ——— |
| Hardwic | Hospital | ante Edw. III. | ——— | Harleston |
| Hempton | Austin Canons | temp. Hen. I. | Sir Wm. Fermer | Fakenham |
| Herzingby | Hospital | cir. 1475 | Sir Thomas Clere | Yarmouth |
| Hickling | Austin Canons | A. D. 1165 | Sir W. Woodhouse | N. Walsham |
| Hitcham | Cluniac Cell | beg. Will. II. | Th. D. of Norfolk | ——— |
| Hobbesse, Grt. | Hospital | temp. John, or Hen. III. | ——— | Norwich |
| Horning | Hospital | begin. Hen. III. | Bish. of Norwich | N. Walsham |

| *Names of Places.* | *Orders.* | *Founded.* | *Granted to.* | *Near.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Horsham | Benedictine P. | A. D. 1105 | Ed. Elrington & Rich. Southwell | Norwich |
| ——— | Hospital | ante 1163 | ——— | ——— |
| Horstede | Alien Priory | temp. Ed. IV. | ——— | Ditto |
| Ingham | College | cir. 1360 | See of Norwich | Worsted |
| Langley | Premonstra. A. | A. D. 1198 | John Berney | Bungay |
| Langwade | Lazars-house | ——— | ——— | Oxburgh |
| Lesingham | Alien P. | temp. Will. II. | King's Coll. Camb. | Worsted |
| Linges | Benedictine N. | ——— | remov. to Thetford | ——— |
| Lynn | 1. Benedict. C. | cir. 1100 | Dean & Ch. Norw. | Lynn |
| ——— | 2. College | cir. 1500 | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 3. St. John's Hos. | temp. Edw. I. | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 4. St. Mary Magdal. Hos. | A. D. 1145 | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 5. Four Lazar Houses | ——— | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 6. Austin Friers | temp. Edw. I. | John Eyre | ——— |
| ——— | 7. Black Friers | temp. Edw. I. | John Eyre | ——— |
| ——— | 8. Grey Friers | cir. 1264 | John Eyre | ——— |
| ——— | 9. White Friers | A. D. 1269 | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 10. Friers de Penitentia | ante 5. Ed. I. | ——— | ——— |
| Marham | Cistertian Nuns | A. D. 1251 | Sir Nich. Hare & Rob. Hare | Downham |
| Massingham Magna | Austin Canons | ante 1260 | Sir Tho. Gresham | Swaffham |
| Modney | Benedict. Cell | ——— | Robert Hogan | ——— |
| Molycourt | Benedictine P. | ante Will. Con. | Ely Cathedral | ——— |
| De Monte Jovis | Austin Canons | temp. John | William Hals | in Haverland |
| Narford | Benedict. Cell | ——— | ——— | Lynn |
| Newbrigge | Fri. Heremites | ante 1373 | ——— | ——— |
| Normannes-berch | Cluniac Cell | cir. 1160 | ——— | S. Reinham |
| Norton Sub-course | College | cir. 17 Ed. III. | ——— | Beccles |
| Norwich | 1. Cathedral & Bened. P. | cir. 1100 | Dean & Ch. Norw. | ——— |
| ——— | 2. St. Leonard's Bened. Cell | ——— | Tho. D. of Norfolk | ——— |
| ——— | 3. Kairo, Benedict. Nun. | A. D. 1146 | Sir John Shelton | ——— |
| ——— | 4. Chapel in the Fields | cir. 1250 | Dr. Miles Spenser, Dean | ——— |
| ——— | 5. St. Giles's Hos. | ante 1249 | Mayor, &c. Norw. | ——— |
| ——— | 6. Godshouse | temp. Edw. I. | ——— | ——— |

| *Names of Places.* | *Orders.* | *Founded.* | *Granted to.* | *Near.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Norwich | 7. Hyldebrond's Spittle | cir. 1200 | ——— | Beccles |
| ——— | 8. Lazar-houses | temp. Ed. III. | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 9. St. Mary Magdal. Hos. | ——— | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 10. Normanspital | ante 1145 | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 11. St. Savior's H. | temp. Edw. I. | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 12. Austin Friers | temp. Edw. I. | Sir Th. Heneage & Wm. Lord Willoughby | ——— |
| ——— | 13. Black Friers | A. D. 1226 | Mayor, &c. Norw. | ——— |
| ——— | 14. Grey Friers | A. D. 1226 | Th. D. of Norfolk | ——— |
| ——— | 15. White Friers | A. D. 1256 | Rich. Andrews and Leonard Chamberlayne | ——— |
| ——— | 16. Fr. de Domina | ante 1290 | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 17. Fr. of St. Mary | ——— | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 18. Friers de Pica | ——— | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 19. Fr. de Sacco | cir. 1250 | ——— | ——— |
| Pentney | Austin Canons | tem. Wm. Con. | Thomas Mildmay | Lynn |
| Peterstone | Austin Canons | ante 1200 | See of Norwich | ——— |
| Racheness | Hospital | temp. Hen. II. | ——— | ——— |
| Raveningham | College | ——— | removed to Norton Subcourse | Beccles |
| Rudham, East | Austin P. | ——— | remov. to Cokesford | Fakenham |
| Rushworth | College | cir. 1342 | Earl of Surrey & Sir John Cheke | ——— |
| Sheringham | Austin Cell | temp. Hen. II. | ——— | Holt |
| Shouldham | Gilbertine P. | temp. Ric. I. | Tho. Mildmay | Downham |
| Slevesholm | Cluniac Cell | cir. 1222 | Osbert Mundeford | ——— |
| Snoring Parva | Lazar-house | A. D. 1380 | ——— | ——— |
| Somerton, West | Hospital | temp. Hen. II. | ——— | Fakenham |
| Sporle | Alien P. | temp. Edw. I. | Eton College | Swaffham |
| Thetford | 1. Cluniac P. | cir. 1104 | Tho. D. of Norfolk | at Thetford |
| ——— | 2. Canons of the Holy Sepulchre | temp. Steph. | R. Fulmerston, Esq. | ——— |
| ——— | 3. Bened. Nuns | removed from Linges c ir. 1160 | R. Fulmerston, Esq. | ——— |
| ——— | 4. College or Gild | temp. Edw. I. | D. of Norfolk & Richard Fulmerston Esq. | ——— |
| ——— | 5. Godshouse | ante Edw. I. | ——— | ——— |

| *Names of Places.* | *Orders.* | *Founded.* | *Granted to.* | *At* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thetford | 6. St. John's Hos. | ——— | R. Fulmerston, Esq. | Thetford |
| ——— | 7. St. Mary and St. Julian's H. | temp. Hen. I. | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 8. St. Mary Magdalen Ho. | ——— | Sir Wm. Fermor | ——— |
| ——— | 9. St. Margaret's Hos. | ——— | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 10. Austin Friers | temp. Ric. II. | Rich. Fulmerston | ——— |
| ——— | 11. Black Friers | temp. Ed. III. | Rich. Fulmerston | ——— |
| Thomeston | College | 23 Edw. III. | Sir Edm. Knyvet | ——— |
| Monk's Tofte | Alien P. | temp. Hen. I. | ——— | Lodden |
| Waburn | Austin Can. | temp. Hen. II. | Rich. Heydon | ——— |
| Walsingham | 1. Austin Can. | temp. Will. I. | Thomas Sidney | Walsingham |
| ——— | 2. Hospital | A. D. 1492 | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 3. Grey Friers | cir. 1346 | John Eyre | ——— |
| Walsoken | Hospital | ante 1400 | ——— | Wisbeach |
| Wells | Alien P. | temp. Will. I. | Osb. Mundeford & Th. Gawdy | Wells |
| Wendling | Premonstra. A. | ante 52 H. III. | Robert Hogan | E. Dereham |
| Westacre | Austin Can. | temp. Will. II. | Mary Duch. of Richmond, and Sir Th. Gresham | Swaffham |
| Weybridge | Austin Can. | temp. Edw. I. | Rich. Fulmerston | Yarmouth |
| Wirham | Alien P. | temp. Rich. I. or John | Tho. Guibon, & Wm. Mynn | ——— |
| Wormgay | Austin Can. | temp. Rich. I. or John | See of Norwich | Downham |
| Wymondham | 1. Benedict. A. | ante 1107 | Hen. E. of Surrey | at Wymondh. |
| ——— | 2. Hospital | ante 1146 | John Dudley, Knt. | ——— |
| Yarmouth | 1. Bened. Cell | ante 1101 | D. & Ch. Norwich | at Yarmouth |
| ——— | 2. Lazar-houses | ante 1374 | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 3. St. Mary's H. | begin. Ed. I. | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | 4. Black Friers | cir. 55 H. III. | Rich. Andrews & Leon. Chamberlayne | ——— |
| ——— | 5. Grey Friers | tem. Hen. III. | Tho. Ld. Cromwell & Sir Rich. Williams | ——— |
| ——— | 6. White Friers | A. D. 127 | T. Denton & R. Nortingham | ——— |

Exclusive of the above, Norfolk contained several *alien* priories, dissolved before the general suppression, and a few decayed hospitals, whose revenues had been sequestered, and appropriated

appropriated to other uses; as Closeley, Downham, Hilgay, Norwich, Setchy, Thorpewood, Wareham, &c. And, beside the Chapel of our Lady of Walsingham, pilgrimages are recorded as having been made to our Lady of Reepham; to our Lady of Pity, at Horstead; to St. Spyrit; St. Parnel, at Stratton; St. Leonard, near Norwich; to St. Margaret, at Horstead; to St. Wandred, at Bexley; to St. John's Head, at Trimmingham; and, to the Holy Rood of Crostwick, or Crosswick. Several manors and estates, in this county, were also held by religious houses in other parts of the kingdom.

ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE.—From the preceding list, and particulars, it will be fairly inferred, that Norfolk contains various and numerous specimens of ecclesiastical architecture; and from the many military transactions which occurred within this district, the antiquary may expect to meet with several castellated remains. Were the author enabled, by an actual examination, to describe and particularize the whole of these, such account would occupy many pages; but, on the present occasion, he must be brief, and confine his observations to the buildings he has seen, and to those of which he knows the architectural peculiarities. Besides the Roman stations and encampments already enumerated, Norfolk contains the following CASTLES, the chief of which were built, or materially altered, by the first Norman barons.

*Norwich Castle* at present merely consists of part of the large square keep, in the upper ballium, standing on a lofty conical hill, and surrounded with a deep and wide vallum. Part of the *ancient city walls*, with flanking towers, and an old embattled building, called the *Cow-Tower*, still remains to shew the character, &c. of these fortifications. Mr. Wilkins dates the building of the walls, 1294 *.

*Castle*

* Archaeologia, Vol. XII. wherein this gentleman has given an interesting and learned "Essay towards a History of the VENTA-ICENORUM of the Romans, and of NORWICH CASTLE."

*Castle Acre.* The fortifications at this place are extensive and bold. Parts of the wall of the circular keep, and some other fragments remain.

*Castle Rising.* The castle here displays some features very dissimilar to either of the former, and different to the generality of fortifications. The square keep, instead of being on a lofty mound or hill, is in a hollow area, surrounded by a high bank and deep vallum. This bank, however, was formerly surmounted by a fortified wall; and its entrance formed by a bridge across the vallum, and a tower gateway. To the east of these was an outer area, inclosed with a high bank and deep vallum, forming a sort of bastion to the citadel. The shell of the keep-tower remains, and displays some ornamental windows, door-ways, &c. The size of the great hall, and some other apartments, may still be ascertained.

At *Middleton,* near Lynn, is a fine gatehouse, or entrance to a castellated structure. *Caistor-Hall,* near Yarmouth; *Oxborough-Hall,* near Stoke; *Winwal-House,* near Stoke; *Stifkey-Hall,* near Walsingham; and *Baconsthorpe-Hall;* are ancient mansions, all of which exhibit some features of a castellated character, though they do not appear to have been regularly and completely fortified.

In the class of *Ecclesiastical Architecture,* Norfolk presents more curious and ancient, than what may be termed fine, buildings. Of those old churches, towers, &c. which are commonly called Saxon and Danish, many specimens are to be found in this county; and it would be highly gratifying to laudable curiosity to ascertain whether they were really erected by either the Saxons or Danes, during their alternate dominion in East-Anglia. The *Round Towers,* of which several still remain in Norfolk and Suffolk, have been called Danish, by Sir James Burrough, and some other antiquaries; and their being found principally in this part of the island, strengthens that opinion. Though of a circular form, they are dissimilar in size and height to the *pillar-towers* of

of Ireland, and are still more unlike the circular churches. The architecture, if their construction be entitled to this term, is very simple, or rude; being a plain wall of flint, rubbish, stone, and mortar, with very few small openings or windows in them. The latter are mostly towards the top, and have semicircular heads, divided into two apertures, with a column between. Two of these towers are described in the following terms, by a valuable correspondent *:—"The parish church of *Bexwell*, near Downham, and that of *Bychamwell*, near Swaffham, have round towers. Besides the acknowledged high antiquity of that form, I think there is, in each, a circumstance certainly not common, and therefore worthy of remark, if not of further investigation. Both have been surmounted by octagon tops, about the age of Henry the eventh. In that of Bexwell, are ten small windows with semicircular heads, surrounding the upper part; but are now bricked up. In that at Bychamwell, are four *pointed apertures*, nearly in the same situation as the windows of the other tower; the arched parts of these, and the sides, are formed by plain squared stones; and the former are disposed in the shape of an acute triangle†. The tower, I judge, to be of *very remote* antiquity, and I think the pointed loops, or windows, are coeval with the original building." Mr. King, the learned author of Munimenta Antiqua, considers these structures Saxon, and says, "another of these *round Saxon towers* is at *Witlingham* church, near Trowse, in Norfolk: only its top has been raised in height, and repaired‡."

Other specimens of the ancient circular, or Saxon style of architecture, are displayed in the following buildings:—The church at



* The Rev. Robert Foby, in a letter to the author.

† Similar arches are to be seen in the ancient entrance gateway to Rougemont Castle at Exeter.

‡ Vol. IV. In the Gentleman's Magazine for 1795, is an engraving of it; which, though very indifferently drawn and executed, serves to shew the shape of the building, though not its architectural detail.

*South-Runcton*, near Downham, now in ruins, has a semicircular east end; and it may be observed, that a church in this manor was given to the famous abbey at Bury, in the time of King Canute. Mr. Forby therefore says, "I think no reasonable doubt can be entertained, that these are the remains of the identical church. Of thirty-five churches (four of them in ruins), in the rural deanery of Fincham, fifteen contain indisputable remains of Saxon or Norman architecture, and eight more exhibit proofs of their erection before the year 1300."

*Thwaite church*, near Bungay, has a fine semicircular arch of entrance on the south side. It consists of six different mouldings of varied ornament; and over the centre is a rudely sculptured head. On each side of the door-way are two columns, with figured capitals, between which the piers are ornamented with lozenges and other figures.

In *St. Julien's church*, at Norwich, was formerly an ornamental arched entrance, of a similar kind; and, at *Wimbotsham church*, is an old door-way, with a semicircular arch, displaying the cable, nebule, and projecting zigzag mouldings. It has two columns on each side; one with a spiral, and the other with a zigzag fillet running up the shafts *. In *Magdalen* chapel, now a barn, in the village of Sprowston, near Norwich, is a semicircular arched entrance, with four mouldings; two of which are plain torusses; one a sort of scroll, and one having triangular knobs disposed at right angles from the centre †. The *church of Gillingham* St. Mary's, near Beccles, has a semicircular east end; and a small square tower in the middle with round arched windows towards the top ‡. The most curious and interesting specimen of the ancient churches, is that at *Castle Rising*, which will be particularly described in a subsequent part of this volume.

Of

* Archaeologia, Vol. XII. plate XXXV. and page 173.

† This, and another arch, are represented in the above volume.

‡ A view of this, with an account of the parish, by Mr. William Aldis, are preserved in the Gent's. Mag. for 1806, p. 798.

Of the large and magnificent *Norman churches*, a few fine examples are to be found in this county: the principal of which is the *Cathedral at Norwich*. This noble edifice displays several interesting specimens of massy columns and semi-arches, with numerous appropriate mouldings, capitals, bases, &c. In the ruined churches of *Wymondham*, *Attlebury*, *Binham*, *Castle Acre*, and *St. Margaret's*, at *Lynn*, are several examples of nearly the same style and age; and all display great grandeur of design, with stability of construction. These will be more particularly noticed in the subsequent descriptions of the respective places.—Examples of a later, and more elegant style of architecture are contained in *St. Nicholas chapel*, at Lynn, the Lady-*mount* chapel, at the same place; in the fragment of *Walsingham priory Church;* in the churches of St. Peter Mancroft, and St. George's, &c. at Norwich; in those of Hingham, Aylsham, Cromer, Fakenham, East Dereham, Swaffham, &c. Several of these buildings are ornamented with screens, piscinas, monuments, fonts, &c. Of the latter, particularly *fine* specimens are to be found in the churches of Binham, Norwich, Walsingham, and Wymondham.

The buildings of a county are usually constructed with the natural materials of the district; whence the geological character of a province may generally be ascertained by its public structures: thus, Norfolk producing scarcely any stone, the builders were induced to look for a substitute, and *flints* being very abundant, were deemed the most eligible and substantial material. These being usually found in small and very irregular pieces, were not easily adapted to flat surfaces, or to facilitate the making of a wall. In large castellated structures, where the walls were required to be very thick, they proved superior to any other substance; but in those buildings they were commonly inclosed with squared stones, and strongly cemented or massed with fluid mortar. In this manner, they are used in the walls of *Gariononum*, and of *Venta-Icenorum;* also in Norwich Castle, Castle Rising, and in several old Churches in this county. In the former, Mr. Wilkins states, that "alternate courses of *squared*

flints, were employed." The same scientific architect further observes, that "no material whatever can exceed the durability of flints: for we do not find any where an instance of their perishing by frosty or wet weather; and, when squared, or laid with care, they are extremely beautiful. In building they have, notwithstanding, but little bond, and depend much upon the mortar-cement they are fixed with; for if wet, by any means, get behind them, the frost soon levels the work. Many, indeed most, of our churches and public buildings in this county are built almost wholly with this material; but the most remarkable I have observed, in which flints faced and squared, are laid in small regular courses, is the Convent-Gate to Norwich cathedral, which was built in the reign of Edward the First, where the walls to the east and the south have a tracery work formed with free-stone, and the intervals are filled with square flints; and some, about Erpingham's Gate, built in penance for Lollardism in the reign of Richard the Second. The chapel of the Virgin Mary, on the south side of St. Michael's Coslany church, which is, indeed, a master-piece (where the stone tracery is beautifully filled with black flints as resemble such old cabinets as we sometimes see inlaid with ivory); was built about the year 1500; and a building in St. Andrew's parish, which is recorded as a very rare and beautiful piece of flint work, built in 1403, by William Appleyard, who was the first mayor, and served the office in this house, which was afterwards sold to the corporation, and is the present bridewell. Many country churches have been also built in this way, as at Cromer, &c. in Norfolk; and many in Suffolk and Essex. The art of squaring the flints, in this curious manner, is now almost totally neglected, though I am convinced it might very soon be brought to perfection again, from the facility I observed the workmen acquire by a little practice in repairing, under my superintendance in Bishop Bagot's time, a tower belonging to the palace *."

CIVIL,

* Archaeologia, Vol. XII.

## Civil, Political, and Honorial History.

In the early reigns of the Saxon princes, the civil and military departments, in each government, were blended together, and vested in the same persons; who, from their rank, were styled *Æthelings*, and from their office, *Ealdermen*, or *Earls*. To these were committed the custody and defence of such parts of the kingdom, over which they respectively presided. In military and civil affairs they were the vicegerents of royalty, and in that capacity were empowered to levy troops, raise contributions for their maintenance, and take the command of them to repel invasion, quell insurrections, and preserve the king's peace; but when Alfred made that admirable distribution of the kingdom, for the more speedy and effectual administration of justice, by dividing and subdividing it into counties, hundreds, and tythings, the basis of the present enviable constitution of England, these two kinds of jurisdiction were separated. That prudent monarch wisely judging that the possession of two such exuberant sources of power, gave the earls an independence of the crown, and such an ascendancy over the people as might become dangerous to the country, and tend to prevent the free execution of the laws contained in his new code of legislation. He abridged the authority of the earls therefore, by creating a distinct office, and a new title. It was ordained, in future, that in each county there should be a *Vicecomes*, or *Shirreeve*, who should enjoy a certain share of the power in his civil and judicial capacity, formerly invested solely in the *comes*, or earl. By virtue of his authority, the shirreeve was empowered to guard the prerogative of the crown, with all rights and privileges attached to it, to levy fines previously imposed, and transact all other business of a similar kind. Antecedent to this regulation, one *mote*, or court, served for the decision of military, civil, and ecclesiastical causes; for the hearing of which, the bishop and the earl conjointly presided; but at this period a severation was made between temporal and

spiritual concerns. The bishop was allowed to hold a privileged court for his diocese, and the sheriff had the power granted to him, of holding courts for determining all cases cognizable by his authority. Anciently, these officers were elected by the freeholders assembled in the county court; but, latterly, they have been chosen by the king, out of persons returned by the judges in eyre, as eligible to serve. When the sheriff of a county is sworn into his office, he is appointed to attend the judges, assist in the execution of justice, fulfil the king's orders; and, for these purposes, he is allowed to hold two courts—one called the *Sheriff's Torn*, for enquiring into all offences committed against the common or statutable law of the realm; the other, named the *County Court*, for the hearing of pleas between debtor and creditor; in which are recoverable all debts under forty shillings. Formerly, one sheriff served for the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and the usage of the crown was to make an alternate appointment from among the gentry liable to serve in both counties; as is still the custom for Cambridge and Huntingdon shires. Separate high-sheriffs were first appointed for those two counties in the eighteenth year of Queen Elizabeth, A. D. 1576. The Lent assizes for this county were held at Thetford till 1797, when they were removed to Norwich, where, with the summer assizes, they are now kept. The quarter sessions are held in the shire-hall, on the Castle-Hill, in the city of Norwich, four times a year, viz. in January, April, July, and October. In the same hall are also held the assizes and county courts. The castle is the county gaol for debtors and felons; and, although in the centre of the city, it forms part of the county, and is solely amenable to its jurisdiction. The custody of the castle was first committed to the high-sheriff of Norfolk, in the first year of Edward the Fourth, A. D. 1461.

The protecting and defensive government of this county, at present, consists of two parts—military and maritime; though both are usually vested in one person.

The *Lord Lieutenant* is locum tenens for the king, and as his deputed viceroy, presides over the affairs of the county. To this office

office of high distinction and responsibility he is appointed by the crown, for the management of military and other collateral affairs. Under his conduct and control are placed the militia; to all the officers of which he has the power of granting commissions, appointing the deputy-lieutenants, who superintend and regulate the ballot; the presenting the names of both, for the approbation of his Majesty, being virtually a mere matter of etiquette. As *Custos Rotulorum*, he possesses the power of putting gentlemen, properly qualified, into the commission of the peace; and he is the keeper of the rolls of session. Though he has the command of the military force, and is himself a justice of the peace, and of the quorum also; yet in both capacities of Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum, he appears rather as a minister than a judge.

Two peers of this county were the original proposers and strenuous supporters of the bill for raising that grand national force, the *militia;* which received the sanction of the three estates of the realm, in the year 1757: an establishment, which, though it was so powerfully opposed, and gave general disgust at the time, has since proved of the highest importance. To Norfolk, also, belongs the honour of having raised the *first* militia-batallion, which early marched out of the county to Hilsea barracks, near Portsmouth, Hants, in the year 1759.

The *Marine* department is deputed to the *Vice Admiral* of Norfolk; an officer who is appointed, and exercises his authority under the commission of the Lord High Admiral of England. He is invested with power to hold a Court of Admiralty for the county, with judges, marshals, and other proper officers, subordinate to him, for the purpose of exercising jurisdiction in all maritime affairs within his peculiar limits. From his decision, and the sentence of the court, an appeal lies to the High Court of Admiralty; from the Lords' Commissioners of which, as Provincial Vice-Admiral, he regularly receives his instructions.

Exclusive of the general jurisdiction of the county, and the

King's courts, there are within it several extra-judicial places and courts peculiarly privileged by exemptions and power.

1. *Curia Ducatus Lancastriensis*, or, the Liberty of the Duchy of Lancaster; the court belonging to which is kept at Aylsham.

2. *Curia Ducatus Norfolciensis*, or the Liberty of the Duchy of Norfolk; the court of which is kept at Lopham, or elsewhere, within the liberty, at the discretion of the Duke. Of the rise and privileges of *this liberty*, a particular, yet succinct account, is contained in a manuscript, now in possession of the steward of the court, purporting to be 'An exemplification of all the grants and privileges of the said liberty.' The *extent* of this liberty is great within, and reaches beyond, the county. It was granted by Edward the Fourth, by patent under the broad seal, dated, at Westminster, December 7, 1468, to John Duke of Norfolk, and Elizabeth his wife, and their heirs for ever. The whole comprises the manors and demesnes of Fornset, Framlingham parva, Ditchingham parva, Ditchingham, Lodden, Sisland, Halvergate, South Walsham, Cantley, Strumpshaw, Castor, Winterton, Dickleburgh, Beighton, and Bayfield: it also contains the whole hundred of Earsham, and the half hundred of Guiltcross, in the county of Norfolk; and, also, the towns, parishes, and demesnes of Kelsube, Bonnagaie, Peasenhull, Calente, Stonham, Dennington, Brundish, Ilketshall, and Cratfield, in Suffolk. It extends to the rapes of Lewes and Pramber; in the hundred and lordship of Boseham, and the town of Stoughton, in Sussex. The manor and lordships of Ryegate and Barking, in Surry; and the town, manor, and lordships of Harwich and Dovercourt, in Essex, are subject to it. The said Duke to have, within the said manors, lordships, and jurisdictions, the return of all writs, bills, summons, precepts, and mandates of the King; so that no sheriff, or any other officer, shall enter the said liberty. To which privilege was added, all fines, amerciaments, profits, penalties, and other royalties; also, waifs, strays, felons-goods, and forfeitures. With these was conveyed to the said Duke, full power to have his own coroners, clerks of the markets, and other officers,

officers, and to appoint a steward of the liberty, who should have power to determine all actions under forty shillings; and that persons residing within the said liberty, should not be liable to answer for such debts in any other court. Of this liberty, the present Duke of Norfolk is lord, who appoints a steward, coroner, &c. and keeps a prison for debtors at Lopham, or elsewhere.

3. The court of the *Baronia de Rhia*, or honor of *Rhye*, is kept at Hingham.

4. The court of the fee, or capital lordship of *Richmond*, is held at Swaffham.

5. The honor of *Clare*, is an ancient liberty lately revived.

Respecting the *Political History* of this county, little can be advanced that would be calculated to reconcile the jarring interests of contending parties, abate the rancour of electioneering animosities, or afford the smallest amusement to the candid and unbiassed reader. The *borough interest*, as it is termed, of this county, like the same in most other parts of the kingdom, is possessed by a few individuals, who consider it a disposable property, which they have a right to transfer for a time, to such persons as will offer the most advantageous terms. What only can be rationally viewed as popular representation, is the *county* interest; and even in this partial remnant of constitutional representation, it would be pleasing if the writer could, with impartiality observe, that no party spirit prevailed, that no partisans of contending factions, by undue means, endeavoured to bias popular opinion; and that no arts of bribery and corruption were used to render nugatory the privilege of elective franchise. This county sent members to parliament as early as the year 1258, when knights of shires were first appointed to be chosen by the king's writ, in *pleno comitatu*, by all persons possessing a freehold estate of the annual value of forty shillings. At the period, when every person possessed of a knight's fee, was usually constituted a knight, members for the shire were to be *milites gladio cincti*,

*cincti*, according to the tenor of the writ; but since that time, esquires, possessed of five hundred pounds per annum in landed property, have been considered admissible. Formerly the parliamentary expences of the members were defrayed by the county; but as the spirit of independence is gone, the meed so wisely awarded for its continuance and support, has long ceased to be paid, or claimed.

The number of freeholders, resident in the county, has been stated at 6000; but this statement is evidently too low, as appears from different contested elections. In 1734, the number on the poll-books was 6302. In 1802, they were 7251 *. The number who voted in 1768 were 11,021, 821 of whom were resident in other countries; leaving for the county, 10,200 †.

Besides the two knights for the county, two members are returned to the British senate for the city of Norwich, and two for each of the boroughs of Castle Rising, Thetford, Lynn, and Yarmouth. Thus, Norfolk, although it pays twenty-two parts of the land-tax, has only a representation of twelve persons to guard its political liberties and privileges, while Cornwall, which pays eight, has a representation of forty-four.

EARLS and DUKES of NORFOLK.—While this county formed part of the kingdom or province of East-Anglia, its internal arrangement and regulations, as already observed, were conducted by the ealdermen, who were styled earls of the East-Angles. For their services, they were remunerated out of the crown pleas; the quantum of which was afterwards fixed by a regulation of King Alfred, whereby they were allowed "tertium denarum placitarum comitatus," i. e. the third part of the pleas within the county, over which either of them respectively presided. The other two parts were reserved by the *vice-comes* or sheriff, and by him paid into

* "The Norfolk Tour," p. 363. But in these statements the freeholders of the city and county of Norwich were not included.

† History and Antiq. of Norfolk, Vol. I. p. 23.

into the exchequer for the king's use. In the reign of Edgar, when the list respecting this county begins,

1. ÆTHELSTAN, styled *half-koning*, or half-king, was the first earl of East-Anglia. He retired to the monastery of Glastonbury, where dying, his widow was made King Edgar's queen.

2. ETHELWOLD, son of Æthelstan, succeeded him in that reign. This was the amorous nobleman sent by Edgar to view for him the fair Elfrida, daughter of Ordgar, Earl of Devon; and being captivated with her engaging charms, resolved on possessing her himself; for which act of presumptuous temerity, he was assassinated by order of the king; who afterwards married the widow, notwithstanding the remonstrances and threats of Dunstan the archbishop of Canterbury.

3. AILWIN, or *Egelwine*, was the third earl, and made ealderman of all England. At the instance of Oswald, archbishop of York, he founded the abbey of Ramsey, and endowed it with two hundred hides of land. Strongly attached to Monachism, he asserted, that the monks were the only supporters of religion; for which partiality the monkish historians have styled him, *amicus Dei*, or the friend of God. He died A. D. 993. He had been thrice married, and one of his widows conferred on the abbey of Ramsey, the lordship of *Brancaster* in this county, to enable the monks to have their winter vestments lined with *fur*.

4. ULFKETTLE, or *Ulfketel*, his successor, was a person of great valour and prowess, numerous proofs of which he gave in his various engagements with the Danish invaders, under their leaders Sweyn and Canute. By the troops of the latter, both he and his son were slain in the battle of Ashdown in Essex.

5. TURKETIL, or *Turkil*, a Dane, was then raised to this important trust, under the style and title of *Duke and Earl* of the *East-Danes*. He is said to have been a co-founder with King Canute of *Ashdown church*, built to commemorate the fatal overthrow of King Edmund Ironsides, in a battle fought upon the hill on which it was erected.

6. HAROLD,

6. HAROLD, second son to Earl Godwin, was the next earl. He vacated his earldom by accepting the crown, and was soon afterwards slain at the memorable battle of Hastings. On his advancement to the throne of England,

7. LEOFRIC, Earl of Mercia, was raised to the dignity; and was the last who bore the title of Earl of East-Anglia; for after the arrival of William of Normandy, and his accession to the throne, the whole system of government was changed; and Saxon laws, customs, and distinctions were superceded by the introduction of Norman jurisprudence. The *Earldom* of *Norfolk* was conferred by the conqueror on

1. RALPH DE WAHER, or *Guader*, whom some writers have considered as a *native* of this county; but from the partition of lands which took place at that time, it appears that he was born in Brittany, and took the surname of *Guader*, from his castle of Guader in that country. Nine manors in Norfolk were bestowed upon him, with the title of *Earl of Norfolk and Suffolk*. Having conspired against his benefactor, A. D. 1075, he was obliged to fly to Denmark *; after which the order of the cross was conferred upon him, and he died in the crusade under Robert Curthose, duke of Normandy. His estates being confiscated, several of them, together with the title, were granted to

2. ROGER BIGOD, who at the time of the Norman survey, held several great lordships in this county. He came over with the conqueror, and for his eminent services at the battle of Hastings, the capital lordship of *Forncet*, in the hundred of Depeham, was granted to him; which lordship has ever since constituted a part of the estates possessed by the dukes of Norfolk. Though this earl revolted against William Rufus, yet he continued a faithful adherent to King Henry the First. Dying in the first year of that monarch's reign, he was buried in the monastery which he had founded at Thetford. *William Bigod*, his son and successor, having been lost by shipwreck, with part of the royal household, in which were the king's two sons, in their way to Normandy,

* See Sim. Dunelm: and Brompton.

3. HUGH

3. HUGH BIGOD, his brother, succeeded to the title; whom King Stephen, for the assistance afforded by Hugh, in raising him to the throne, renewed the extinct title, and created him Earl of *East-Anglia*. To the title and dignity of *Earl* of *Norfolk*, he was afterwards advanced by King Henry the Second, A. D. 1166. He died attainted A. D. 1177.

4. ROGER BIGOD, who, though heir to the honor of the earldom of Norfolk, and to the stewardship of the royal household, was obliged to purchase both, by the payment of one thousand marks, in consequence of the attainder of his father. In the time of King John he joined the refractory barons, and was one of the most active amongst them in procuring for the people that great palladium of English liberty, *Magna-Charta*. He dying, A. D. 1220, was succeeded by his son,

5. HUGH BIGOD, who died in the ninth year of Henry the Third, A. D. 1225. His son,

6. ROGER BIGOD, was early taken notice of by Henry the Third, for the singular skill he displayed at a tournament held between the northern and southern nobles, in the twenty-first year of that monarch's reign. This Earl strenuously opposed the oppressive power of Rome, and exerted himself to relieve the kingdom from the papal exactions. He died in the fifty-fourth year of Henry the Third; and leaving no issue,

7. ROGER BIGOD, his nephew, succeeded. He had been advanced, in a parliament held at Oxford, A. D. 1258, to the office of Justice of England; and being associated soon after with two other judges, Roger de Turkeli and Gilbert Preston, went the circuit of the kingdom, by what then were termed *iters*, from county to county, and liberty to liberty, for the impartial administration of justice. He opposed the arbitrary impositions of King Edward the First upon lands and wool; and obtained from that prince a confirmation of the two great charters of the realm, and also of the '*Articuli super Chartas*,' explanatory of their meaning and extent; together with an edict of amnesty for all

all past crimes and misdemeanors, created by the abuse of them. Though he had an heir, in his brother John, yet he constituted the king his successor, resigning to him, previous to his death, which happened A. D. 1305, the marshal's rod. Edward, thus in possession of the office of marshal, and the earldom of Norfolk, conferred them both on his fifth son,

8. THOMAS PLANTAGENET DE BROTHERTON, who, dying without issue, A. D. 1338, Margaret, his wife, was created a *duchess;* who marrying John Lord Segrave, had issue a daughter, named Elizabeth, afterwards married to

9. THOMAS LORD MOWBRAY, who, in right of his wife, succeeded to the *honor* of Norfolk. He was the *first* duke, created by Richard the Second before the year 1380. The King bestowed on him the office of Earl Marshal of England, with remainder to the heirs of his body; and the united offices of Marshal in the Courts of King's Bench and Exchequer, and Marshal-Cryer before the Steward, and Marshal of the King's Household. He was banished in 1398, and died at Venice in the year 1400, when

10. THOMAS DE MOWBRAY, succeeded to the marshalship, but not to the dukedom; and for conspiring against King Henry the Fourth, was beheaded at York, A. D. 1407.

11. JOHN DE MOWBRAY, his brother, having fought valiantly during the wars in France, under Kings Henry the Fifth and Sixth; he was, by an unanimous vote of parliament, restored to the hereditary title. He died A. D. 1438.

12. JOHN DE MOWBRAY, his son, had the title confirmed; and died in the first year of Edward the Fourth. His son,

13. JOHN DE MOWBRAY, died Duke of Norfolk, in the fifteenth year of Edward the Fourth, leaving one daughter, married to

14. RICHARD PLANTAGENET, DUKE OF YORK, second son of Edward the Fourth. In right of his wife, he became Duke of Norfolk; but dying without issue in the Tower, A. D. 1483,

1483, the honor, and part of the estates, devolved upon Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of Thomas de Mowbray, married to Sir Robert Howard, Knt. whose son,

15. SIR JOHN HOWARD, *Knt.* was created by Richard the Third, A. D. 1483, Duke of Norfolk. In the illustrious family of *Howard*, the title, dignity, &c. have ever since remained; the most noble Prince Charles Howard, the tenth in descent, being the present Duke of Norfolk.

This county also gives *titles* to the following peers:

*Thetford*—Augustus Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Grafton, Earl of Euston and Arlington, is *Viscount Thetford*. *Lynn*—George Townshend, is *Marquis* Townshend of *Rainham*, Viscount Townshend, and also *Baron Townshend of Lynn*. *Yarmouth*—Francis Seymour Conway Seymour, Marquis and Earl of Hertford, is *Earl of Yarmouth*. *Blickling*—Robert Hobart, Earl of Buckinghamshire, is *Baron Hobart* of *Blickling*. *Burnham Thorpe*—The Rev. William Nelson, brother of the late ever-to-be-lamented naval hero, Horatio Nelson, is *Viscount* Nelson of the Nile, and of *Burnham Thorpe*, in this county. *Wolterton*—Horatio Walpole, Earl of Orford, is *Baron Walpole of Wolterton*. *Suffield*—Harbord Harbord, is *Baron Suffield*. *Calthorpe*—George Calthorpe, is *Baron Calthorpe*. *Kimberley*—John Wodehouse, is *Baron Wodehouse of Kimberley*. *Walsingham*—Thomas De Grey, is *Baron Walsingham*.

The *city of Norwich*, though so long conspicuous in the page of history, does not appear to have given any title of civil honor till the reign of Charles the First, who, August the 24th, 1626, created Edward Lord Denny of Waltham, *Earl of Norwich*. In the third inheritance, for want of issue male, it became extinct, and was revived by Charles the Second, in the 24th year of his reign, who created Henry Howard, Lord Howard of Castle Rising, Earl of Norwich; who afterwards became Duke of Norfolk.

Many of the ancient titles, borne from places in this county, are dormant or extinct. Baronets, which were first created by James

James the First, in the year 1611, seem to answer to the feudal barons of ancient times, when the distinction existed of barons *of parliament*, and *barons by patent*. Of the number which have been created within this county, the titles of twenty-nine are extinct, and sixteen are still retained.

## Ancient and present State of Property, Seats, &c.

When William Duke of Normandy had asserted his right to the crown of England, and possessed himself of the country by the sword, his first object was to give stability to the throne, by the extension of his power. This he soon accomplished by enforcing arbitrary acts, and by the most oppressive measures. The ambitious desire of aggrandisement may be the source of tyranny; but the motives to the exercise of it, will generally be found in the seducements of wealth. Charges of disaffection in the vanquished are preliminaries to rapine; and where confiscation is resisted, spoliation ensues.—The Saxon nobility, who had opposed with their counsel, their wealth, or their arms, the usurpation of the conqueror, he considered the just victims of his retaliating vengeance; and those who had stood neuter, he could not consider in the light of friends. Even such as had openly espoused his cause, he did not think it prudent to continue in their honors and estates, for two cogent reasons: first, because he was a sufficient politician to know, that forced obedience is never sincere; and that it will last no longer than the compulsory cause continues to act: and secondly, because, had he not in some degree fulfilled the flattering promises he had made, and realized the hopes of gain, which had been excited, he would have esasperated those military heroes, who had ventured their all to put him in possession of the kingdom. This could only be done by a general seizure of the estates possessed by the Saxon nobility. This measure, however unjustifiable, was now become absolutely

lutely necessary for his future security. A general edict of confiscation through the realm was issued, and the estates so alienated, were parcelled out among his Norman followers. He thus disposed of the manors, or landed property, in the county of Norfolk.

To HUGH DE ABRANCIS, his sister's son, he gave to hold, by the sword, the Earldom of Chester, with *twelve manors* in this county.

ODO, BISHOP of BAIEUX, in Normandy, his brother by his mother's side, he made Count Palatine, Earl of Kent, with precedence over all earls: and constituted him Justiciarius-Angliæ, gave him power of making laws, and the administration of them; and enfeofed him with *Twenty-two manors* in Norfolk, exclusive of numerous other possessions.

Upon ALAN RUFUS, or Fergaunt, son of Eudo, Earl of Brittany, whom he created *Earl of Richmond* in Yorkshire, he bestowed *eighty-one manors*.

WALTER GIFFARD, son of Osborn de Bolebec, and Aveline, his wife, he made Earl of Buckinghamshire, and gave him *twenty-eight manors*.

RALPH WAHER, or *Guader*, he created Earl of Norfolk and Suffolk, and bestowed upon him the manors of Bucham, Acles, Halfriate, Fiscelle, Castor, Belege, Middleton, Eccles, and Walsham.

WILLIAM EARL of WARREN, in Normandy, nephew to the Countess Gunnora, he constituted Earl *Warren* and *Surrey*; and gave him, as a meed of valour, *one hundred and thirty-nine lordships*.

To EUDO DE RYE, or *Rhia*, fourth son of Hubert de Rye, he gave *nine manors*; and, for his fidelity, he appointed him his locum-tenens in Normandy; and made his elder son Governor of *Norwich Castle*.

To WILLIAM DE ALBINI PINCERNA, his bursar, he gave the possessions of a Thane, named Edwin; comprising the four manors of Snetisham, Sharburn, Stanhoe, and Buckenham; besides confirming to him the lands which came by Maud, his wife, daughter of Roger Bigod, consisting of ten knight's fees.

The manor of Buckenham, De Albini held by the service of *bursar*, or butler to the King; whence he took the additional name of *Pincerna*.

HUMPHRY DE BOHUN, his kinsman, the Conqueror created Earl of Hereford, and bestowed upon him the manor and lordship of Tutterford.

To RALF DE LIMESI he granted also *one manor*.

On PETER DE VALOINES he bestowed *twenty lordships*.

RALPH DE BAYNARD, he enfeofed with *forty-four manors*, for his super-eminent valour and distinguished services.

On RALPH DE TONI, or *Tony*, son of Roger de Toni, Royal Standard-bearer of Normandy, for his valour, he conferred *nineteen lordships*.—Thus, in the county of Norfolk only, *three hundred and seventy-nine manors and lordships* were wrested from their legitimate owners, and seized, as droits of the crown, to reward the military services of the enterprising Normans, who had risqued their lives, and connected their fortunes with those of the Conqueror. Of these proprietary usurpers, few of the descendants inherited the estates for any considerable period; and were they to be sought among the present nobility and gentry of the county, scarcely a vestige of their names, or their families, could be traced. The possessions rapidly passed into other families, and *fuimus* might be an appropriate motto for them all.

During the reign of the Conqueror, Ralph de Waher having forfeited his honors and his estates, by taking up arms against his sovereign, both were conferred on HUGH BIGOD, who had distinguished himself in the battle of Hastings. The property continued in this family till the time of Edward the Second; for, in 1312, Thomas de Brotherton had a charter in-tail general of the honors and estates of Roger Bigod, Marshal of England, and Earl of Norfolk. These were confirmed to him in the reign of King Edward the Third. In whose time, the manors in the hundred of Brothercross, which, till that period, had belonged to the Earls of Warren and Surrey, were given to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster.

The

The great estates in the hundred of South Erpingham, descended from the Barons de Rhia, to the *Marshals*, Earls of Pembroke; from which family they descended to that of *Morley*.

The possessions of the *Albinis'*, afterwards Earls of Arundel, successively remained in that family till the reign of Henry the Third; when Hugh de Albini having an only daughter, they passed, by marriage, into the family of *Montalt*.

The estates of Ralph de Tony, went, by marriage, in the time of Edward the Second, into the family of Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. But to pursue the various changes of property which have taken place, by inheritance, marriage, or demise, would be to give a manorial history of the county. Suffice it briefly to name some of the great landed proprietors in the different periods subsequent to the general partition already noticed.

Among those possessed of large divisions of property in this county, in the reign of Henry the First, appears the name of *Sharnburne*. Edwyn de Sharnburne married the heiress of the Saxon Thane, or Lord, Thoke; and in this family the estates, which had been first seized, and then restored, by the Conqueror, continued nearly six hundred years. In this reign, William D'Albini possessed large estates in the hundred of Forehoe; and the family of Mounfords, in the hundred of Clackclose.

In the time of Henry the First, the *Fitzwalters* possessed Diss. The *Harmgays* had large possessions in the reigns of King Richard the First, and King John; as had also Walter de Norwich.

In the reign of Henry the Third, among families who had large property in this county, occur the names of *Breton*, or *Britton*, *Folliot*, and *de Waveney*.

In the time of Edward the First, the several great proprietors were, *John de Clavering*, who had the hundred of North Erpingham settled upon him in exchange for certain castles and manors in Northumberland. He also possessed lands in Holt.

The hundred of Henstead was possessed in fee by *John de Vaux*; and the family of *Segrave* held lands in Loddon.

*John Howard*, from whom are descended the noble families

of Norfolk, Suffolk, Berkshire, &c. had large possessions in Marshland, and other parts of the county; some of which still form part of the extensive domains of the Duke of Norfolk.

In the reign of Edward the Second, *Gilbert Earl of Clare* held lands in the hundred of Gallow. The *Uffords*, Earls of Suffolk, held lands in the hundred of Earsham, and in various other parts of the county; for which Robert de Ufford obtained a royal charter of free-warren, in the succeeding reign. The barons *Roos* held estates in Wayland hundred. The family of *Le Strange*, from which was descended Sir Thomas Le Strange, Lord Deputy of Ireland in the reign of Henry the Sixth, a descendant of whom was created a baronet in 1629, were great proprietors. The family of *Montalts* and the *Morleys* also had large possessions here.

The great land-holders, in the time of Edward the Third, were *John of Gaunt*, Duke of Lancaster, who was enfeofed of manors in the hundreds of Brothercross, North Greenhoe, North Erpingham, and Loddon. Sir *Roger de Kerdeston* held large estates in-tail, which descended to the *Poles*, Earls of Suffolk, and are now in possession of the Howard family. The *Bigods*, who had changed their name to *Felbriggs*, possessed great part of the hundred of Gilcross. The family of *Knevet* had large possessions in Depwede. Sir John *Knevet* was Lord Chancellor in this reign. The family of *Woodhouse* possessed estates in Fourhoe, of which was Robert Woodhouse, treasurer to King Edward the Third.

In the time of Richard the Second, among great proprietors were *Mowbray*, Duke of Norfolk, Baron *Mortimer* of Attleborough, *Montacute* Earl of Salisbury, &c.

In the reigns of Henry the Fourth and Fifth, the *Berneys* had large estates in the hundred of Blofield; of which family was Sir Robert *Berney*, sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, in the seventh year of Henry the Fourth; and Richard Berney, Esq. who was created a baronet 1620. The Barons *Bardolphus* were great proprietors. The *Pastons*, of whom William Paston, Esq. who was puisne judge in the Court of Common Pleas during the succeeding

ceeding reign, held considerable estates in the hundred of Tunstead. The *Fitzalans*, Earls of Arundel, and the *Sheltons*, were great proprietors in this and the following reigns.

In the time of Richard the Third, the *Dacres* were great land proprietors in this county; and those of *Narford* and *Tilney* had large possessions.

During the reign of Henry the Seventh, the *Townshends* became proprietors, by purchase from the crown; of which family Sir Roger Townshend, one of the justices of the Court of Common Pleas, was at this time a distinguished character; from whom is descended the present Marquis Townshend. The *Yelvertons* likewise had great possessions in the hundred of Launditch; of whom William had been Lord Chief Justice in the preceding reign; and two of the family afterwards held the same high office, one in the reign of Elizabeth, and another in the time of Charles the First. *Sir James Hobart*, Attorney-General and Privy Counsellor to the King, possessed estates in the hundred of Clavering, a descendant of whom is the present Lord Hobart. The *Lovels* had estates in the hundred of Clavering; of which family, one was in this reign treasurer of the household and president of the council. The *Southwells*, the *Gaudies*, and the *Spelmans*, were at this time considerable families in the county.

In the time of Henry the Eighth, among the great proprietors appear the names of *Howards*, Dukes of Norfolk; *Fitzalans*, Earls of Arundel; Lord *Willoughby* de Eresby; Lord *Denny*; Lord *Dacres*; Lord *Lovell*; the *Hobarts*, *Townshends*, *Sheltons*, *Kerdestans*, *Southwells*, *Cokes*, *Pastons*, *Gorings*, *Spelmans*, *Berneys*, &c.

The landed interest has subsequently undergone a material alteration. By the abolition of feudal customs, the admission of all classes of society to participate in the distribution of legal privileges, and the general diffusion of a spirit of trade and commerce, property has been greatly divided: and though, in some cases, large tracts of land have been accumulated into great estates; yet, in numerous instances, both the tenures and the owners have been

changed. The names of many possessed of large estates in the county will be seen by the list of seats hereafter annexed. Although it has been remarked, that Norfolk has fewer peers resident in it, than any county, its equal in size and importance; yet in few are found so many independent and wealthy commoners, possessing princely or noble fortunes.

### *Seats of Nobility in Norfolk.*

| | |
|---|---|
| RAINHAM HALL ..... | the Marquis Townshend |
| BIXLEY HALL ..... | Earl of Roseberry |
| HOUGHTON HALL..... | Earl of Cholmondeley |
| QUIDDENHAM ..... | Earl of Albemarle |
| WOLTERTON HALL ..... | Earl of Orford |
| | |
| BUCKENHAM HOUSE .... | Lord Petre |
| CLERMONT LODGE ..... | Lord Clermont |
| GUNTON HALL..... | Lord Suffield |
| HONINGHAM ..... | Lord Bayning |
| KIMBERLEY HALL ..... | Lord Wodehouse |
| MERTON..... | Lord Walsingham |
| WEETING ..... | Lord Mountrath |

### *Seats of Baronets and Commoners.*

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|---|---|
| RAVENINGHAM HOUSE .. | Sir Edm. Bacon, premier Bart. |
| BARTON BENDISH, and KIRBY BEDON ..... | Sir John Berney, Bart. |
| At CATTON..... | Sir Edward Berry, Bart. |
| COSTESSEY HALL..... | Sir Wm. Jerningham, Bart. |
| HARLING, WEST ..... | Sir J. Saunders Sebright, Bart. |
| HETHEL HALL ..... | Sir Thomas Beevor, Bart. |
| HILLINGTON ..... | Sir Martin-Browne Folkes, Bart. |

LANGLEY

| | |
|---|---|
| Langley Park ..... | Sir T. Beauchamp Procter, Bart. |
| Melton Constable .... | Sir Jacob-Henry Astley, Bart. |
| Melton..... | Sir John Lomb, Bart. |
| Mount Ida ..... | Sir Henry-John Lambert, Bart. |
| Oxburgh Hall ..... | Sir Richard Bedingfeld, Bart. |
| Scottow Hall ..... | Sir Thomas Durrant, Bart. |
| Shadwell Lodge ..... | Sir Robert-John Buxton, Bart. |
| Thursford ..... | Sir George Chad, Bart. |
| Worstead House ..... | Sir Geo.-Berney Brograve, Bart. |
| | |
| Anmer Park ..... | James Coldham, Esq. |
| Bawdeswell Hall .... | Richard Lloyd, Esq. |
| Bayfield Hall ..... | Henry Joddrell, Esq. |
| Beeston ..... | Mrs. Micklethwayt |
| Beeston, St. Lawrence | Mrs. Preston |
| Billingford ..... | Ralph Dutton, Esq. |
| Blickling, and Suffield Halls..... | Hon. W. A. Harbord |
| Bodney Hall ..... | Inhabited by the Benedictine Dames of Montargis |
| Bracon Ash ..... | Thomas French Berney, Esq. |
| At Catton..... | Seats of Jer. Ives, jun. Esq. Rob. Harvey, Ives Harvey, and Tho. Harvey, Esqrs. |
| Cockley Clay..... | John Richard Dashwood, Esq. |
| At Cromer ..... | George Wyndham, Esq. |
| Crown Point (Trowse Newton) ..... | Major-General Money |
| Crow Hall (Denver) .... | J. Thurlow Deering, Esq. |
| Denton..... | Timothy Tomson, Esq. |
| Didlington..... | Robert Wilson, Esq. |
| Ditchingham ..... | John Bedingfield, Esq. |
| Earsham Hall ..... | Joseph Wyndham, Esq. |
| Easton Lodge..... | William Foster, jun. Esq. |
| Elmham ..... | Richard Milles, Esq. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Felbrigg | Right Hon. W. Windham |
| Geldestone | Thomas Kerrich, Esq. |
| Gillingham Hall | Mrs. Schutz |
| Gunthorpe | Rev. Charles Collyer |
| Hanworth | Robert Lee Doughty, Esq. |
| Hargham | Mrs. Hare |
| Heacham | Edmund Rolfe, Esq. |
| Heveringland | William Fellowes, Esq. |
| Hilborough | Ralph Caldwell, Esq. |
| Holkham House | Thomas William Coke, Esq. |
| Honing | Thomas Cubitt, Esq. |
| Horstead | Henry Palmer Watts, Esq. |
| At Hoverton, St. Peter | Seats of Henry Negus, and A. Aufrere, Esqrs. |
| Hoveton, St. John | J. Blofeld, Esq. |
| Islington | Thomas Bagge, Esq. |
| Keswick | Richard Gurney, Esq. |
| Ketteringham Hall | Mrs. Atkyns |
| Kirby Cane | Robert Wilson, Esq. |
| Letton House | T. T. Gurdon, Esq. |
| Long Stratton | Rev. Mr. Burroughes |
| Lyndford Hall | Nathan Lucas, Esq. |
| Narborough | ——— Tyson, Esq. |
| Narford Hall | Brigg Price Fountaine, Esq. |
| Necton | ——— Mason, Esq. |
| Rackheath House | Edward Stracey, Esq. |
| Riddlesworth Park | Sylvanus Bevan, Esq. |
| Ryston Hall | E. R. Pratt, Esq. |
| Sall Hall | Edward Hase, Esq. |
| Sandringham Hall | H. H. Henley, Esq. |
| Sennowe Lodge (Ryburgh) | Thomas Wodehouse, Esq. |
| Shotesham House | Robert Fellowes, Esq. |
| Snarehill | Henry Redhead, Esq. |
| Snettisham | Henry Styleman, Esq. |
| South Pickenham Hall | William Lobb Chute, Esq. |

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|---|---|
| Spixworth | Francis Longe, Esq. |
| Stow Bardolph Hall | Thomas Hare, Esq. |
| Stratton Strawless | Robert Marsham, Esq. |
| Taverham | Mrs. Branthwayt |
| Toft, West | Stephen Payne Galway, Esq. |
| Thelton Hall | Thomas Havers, Esq. |
| Thetford Ford Place | George Beauchamp, Esq. |
| Thetford New Place | Rice James, Esq. |
| Thorpe Lodge | John Harvey, Esq. |
| Watlington | T. B. Plestow, Esq. |
| Wallington Hall | Henry Bell, Esq. |
| Walsingham Abbey | Henry Lee Warner, Esq. |
| Walpole, St. Peter's | Henry Hare Townshend, Esq. |
| Westacre High House | Anthony Hamond, Esq. |
| Weston | John Custance, Esq. |
| Westwick House | John Berney Petre, Esq. |
| Witton | Hon. Col. Wodehouse |
| Woodton Hall | Robert Suckling, Esq. |
| At Wroxham | Seats of Col. Hulton, and Rev. J. Humfrey. |
| Weasenham | William Robert Mason, Esq. |

## Geographical Description, Divisions, &c.

Norfolk is a maritime county, bounded on the north and east by the German Ocean, or North Sea; on the south, the rivers Waveney and Little Ouse divide it from Suffolk; and by the Great Ouse and Nene rivers, it is separated from Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire on the west. The shape is nearly elliptical, bounded by a convex line, a little indented on the western extremity. It is so surrounded by its marine and river boundary, that it may be considered almost an island, being connected with the adjacent land solely by a narrow causeway, raised through the marshes near Lopham. The longest diameter is in the direction of east to west, from Yarmouth to Wisbeach; and the conjugate

jugate diameter north and south, from Wells to Billingford. Templeman estimates the former to be fifty-seven miles, and the latter thirty-five. He also states the contents to be 1426 square geographical miles; but Mr. Kent, whose skill and accuracy in surveying appears preferable, states the greatest length to be fifty-nine miles, and the greatest breadth to be *thirty-eight;* comprising an area of 1710 square miles, and 1,094,400 statute acres *. Mr. Young, not being satisfied with this statement, had the recent accurate survey of the county carefully measured; the result of which measurement gives 1830 square miles for the superfices; which countenances Mr. Howlett's opinion, that Norfolk is larger than Essex, which is estimated to contain 1,240,000 statute acres. Norfolk is divided into thirty-three hundreds, containing one city, four sea-ports, twenty-five other market-towns, and seven hundred and fifty-six parishes; a greater number than any other county in the kingdom †.

The editors of a late description of the county say, " We, even we, who have made a personal scrutiny in *toto* and in *partibus*, cannot determine the exact number of towns or parishes; nay, the precise number of market-towns is yet doubtful ‡." Any attempt to decide the dubious question, by referring to church benefices, or poll-books at elections, will be equally nugatory. A document

* General View of the Agriculture of Norfolk, p. 6.

† Camden gives the number at 625. The Magna Britannia makes the number 660. Both evidently erroneous; for by a rate-book of taxes, made a little subsequent to the time of the former writing, and antecedent to the latter, in the reign of William the Third, the number of market-towns is stated to be thirty-two, and villages 711. But certainty is not to be expected; as at different periods the number occasionally varies in all counties, by the depopulation of some parishes, and the creation of others. In some cases of depopulated villages, although the churches have long been dilapidated, the parishes are still integral and distinct. In other instances, the payment of taxes having been consolidated with that of adjoining parishes, the places cease to be enumerated in the parochial lists.

‡ History and Antiquities of Norfolk, p. 24.

ment is preserved in history, which tends to shew that Mr. Kent's enumeration is rather under than above the mark. In the year 1371, the Clergy granted to the King a benevolence for carrying on the French war. The sum was five thousand pounds; to raise which every *parish* was ordered to pay after the ratio of 5l. 16s. the greater to help the less. On that occasion, the Bishop, when he made the return for this diocese, certified, that Norfolk had in it *eight hundred and six* parishes, and would raise 3,674l. 16s.; and that Suffolk had *five hundred and fifteen* parishes, which, by reason of their poverty, were excused for 5l. 12s. 7d. each, and therefore would raise but 2,926l*.

*Climate, &c.*—From the situation of this county, parts of it being exposed to the ocean, and others to a large extent of marsh-land, the air is extremely cold in winter, and at the early part of spring. North and north-easterly winds, it has been observed, are more prevalent here than in any other part of the kingdom. These are severely felt, and vegetation is consequently backward. The contiguity to the sea and the marshes, with the vapors brought from Holland, accounts for the frequent rains during the summer months; at which season storms of thunder, lightning, and tornadoes, are not unusual, though they are seldom of so long duration as in more hilly districts. Mr. Young considers the *temperature* as rather affecting animal, than vegetable life; but there does not appear any just ground for the distinction. The vital principle, whatever it may be, is evidently homogeneous throughout nature; and whatever operates upon that, will produce salutiferous or deleterious effects upon vegetables as well as animals, though different in degree, and unequal in importance. Whoever has visited the county of Norfolk in the spring, and has previously examined the operations of nature in the *midland* districts, must have been struck with the backward appearance of the crops, and at the sight of nature dwindling under the apparent influence of even a genial sun. In the hundred of Marshland, and other fenny parts of the county, the air is

* Stow's Annals of England, fol. 269.

is not only cold, but exceedingly damp; and the inhabitants are subject to intermitting fevers. These are endemial, so that strangers, on their first residence, are generally attacked with agues: on which occasion they are proverbially said to be "*arrested by the bailiff of Marshland.*" The country to the north and north-west of Thetford, forming the greater part of Norfolk, consisting of a sandy or gravelly soil, is peculiarly salubrious and pleasant.

*Surface, general appearance, and Soil of the county.*—The face of Norfolk may be considered as less varied in its features than that of any tract of country, of equal extent, in the kingdom. No mountains in the interior furnish traits of the grand; no bold and towering cliffs, of the sublime; and few umbrageous woods and winding vales of the beautiful and picturesque in scenery. Though these are the general characteristics, yet there are some exceptions to this uniformity of appearance: particularly in the northern parts, where the general surface is somewhat broken into moderate elevations and depressions; where turf-clad hills, and fertile vallies are diversified by woods, coppices, hedge-rows, and other enlivening sylvan decorations. The cottages and small farm houses are many of them of wattle and dab, or lath-and-plaster, and covered with thatch: there are some, however, neatly built with brick, and roofed with slate or pantile. The numerous good houses of opulent yeomen, and the seats of the nobility and gentry adorn many parts of the county. The surface, Mr. Kent observes, except about Norwich and on the coast, near Sherringham and Cromer, is chiefly a dead flat, the aspect uniform; and as the most uninteresting parts lie to the south-west, where strangers mostly enter the county, it must offer to them a dreary and forbiding appearance. The entrance from the south by way of Colchester, however, brings the traveller into a fine rich country towards the north and north-east; and these parts being enclosed, well cultivated, and abounding with timber, more than most maritime districts, exhibit a variety of chearful scenes and pleasing views.

The

The most extensive prospects are from Ashill near Swaffham; Holkham; Docking, near Burnham; Melton, near Holt; Poringland and Thorpe, near Norwich. The road from Wareham is picturesque, looking down on Stifkey vale, over which the hills rise in a bold manner, though bare of wood. Near Blakeney is another of those beautiful scenes, which become interesting from intricacy and gloom.

"As to the *Soil*," observes Fuller, "here are fens and heaths, light and deep, sand and clay grounds, meadow lands, and pastures and arable, woodlands, and woodless." Mr. Kent* divides the county into *five* parts as to soil. *First*, the district to the north and north-east of Norwich, comprising the hundreds of East and West Flegg, South Walsham, Blofield, Wapping, Tunstead, and the greatest part of North and South Erpingham, which consist of a sandy loam, "equal in value to the best part of the Austrian Netherlands, to which it is similar." *Second*, the district to the south and south-east of Norwich, including the hundreds of Loddon, Clavering, Henstead, Earsham, Diss, Depewade, and Humbleyard, and some parts of Forehoe and Mitford, consists of stiff wet land, composed of a mixture of sand and clay, and abounding with springs. *Third*, the district containing the largest part of the county, and lying to the west and north-west of Norwich, comprises the hundreds of Taverham, Eynsford, Holt, North Greenhoe, Gallow, Launditch, Brothercross, Smithdon, Freebridge, and Clackclose. This is what generally goes by the name of *West-Norfolk*, and consists principally of light sandy land, and "is a very inferior country to the two preceding districts." The *Fourth* district, lying south-west of Norwich, comprises the hundreds of Shropham, Guiltcross, Weyland, South Greenhoe, and Grimshoe, which consists of a light sand; so light indeed in the latter hundred, that it frequently drifts in the wind, and is bare of vegetation. Marshland may be considered a *fifth* district by itself, consisting of ooze, formed by a deposition from the sea. To this may be added a narrow tract of similar land on the eastern part of the coast, near the mouth of the rivers Yare and Waveney. This extends a considerable distance

* General View, p. 12.

distance up the county towards Norwich; the whole of which in winter is commonly under water, and in the spring there is a necessity to drain it, for the purposes of depasturing. There are also large tracts of swampy ground in the vicinity of Lodham, frequently inundated by land floods, and producing little except sedge and reeds. In the south-west part of the county is an extensive tract of land, which cannot class with either of Mr. Kent's divisions, being essentially different from them all. It forms part of that immense fenny district, which extends out of this county into Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, and Huntingdonshire, also into Suffolk, and Lincolnshire, which became an early subject of improvement by drainage; and through which passes that celebrated work, the *Bedford level.*

Some account of this tract will be given, when describing that part of the county. Mr. Arthur Young furnishes the following table of soils in Norfolk, with the number of square miles and acres occupied by each.

| | *Square Miles.* | *Acres.* |
|---|---|---|
| Light sand | 220 | 140,800 |
| Good sand | 420 | 268,800 |
| Marshland clay | 60 | 38,400 |
| Various loams | 900 | 576,000 |
| Rich loam | 148 | 94,720 |
| Peat | 82 | 52,480 |

*Woods and Plantations.*—Norfolk, by some writers, has been described as a well-wooded county; and by others as almost wholly destitute of that interesting vesture. Both opinions have proceeded from a superficial, or a partial view of the district. In some parts of it the hedge-rows abound with numerous trees, which at a distance, by aggregation, give an idea of extensive woods: and in others the great expanse of heath and unenclosed lands, stript of every timber tree, exhibit a dreariness, which, unrelieved by sylvan scenery, tends to impress the mind with this ideas that Vertumnus as well as Pomona, have never taken this district

district under their protection. There are, however, numerous woods, though they are partially scattered through the county. The principal are those of Foxley, in the hundred of Eynsford; some to the westward of Wymondham in Forehoe; Shottesham, in Henstead; Ashwellthorpe, Hampnell, and Bunwell, in Depewade; Hethel, Hethersel, and Hetteringham in Humbleyard. Besides smaller woods in Erpingham, Clavering, Earsham, &c. *Plantations* originated in Norfolk with Sir Robert Walpole and Lord Townshend. Since whose time the county has in this respect been behind no other part of the island. Of late a laudable spirit has pervaded the proprietors of great estates, to plant, not merely for embellishment, but for use. Extensive plantations of timber trees have been made in several parts, and the north-western exceed the rest*. In this judicious practice, Mr. Marsham of Stratton took the lead, and his example has been followed by many others, among whom Mr. Coke of Holkham, and Mr. Windham of Felbrigg, rank deservedly high as beneficial planters.

COASTS, RIVERS, CANALS, ROADS, &c.—The coast of Norfolk varies very much in its outline and substance from the south and western shores of the island. No deep indented bays, nor sinuous creeks, intersect the land; nor beetling rocks and bold impending crags here form an adamantine barrier to the assailing waves; and though a continuation of that great bed of chalk, which, commencing in the high cliffs of Dorsetshire, passes through the kingdom, and terminates here, yet it forms, on this part of the coast, no proud elevations, nor conspicuous heights—the shores are generally flat. In the vicinity of Cromer, where is a small bay, some bold headlands present themselves; and some wooded hills make a little variety in the neighbourhood

* A practice has been introduced by Mr. Marsham of successful planting after the Flemish manner, viz. lopping off the heads of the young plants, even if ten feet high at the time of planting, which prevents their being injured by high winds. Nor does this render the trees unseemly, but rather as they grow up, adds to the beauty of their form.

bourhood of Sheringham. Exclusive of these, which are on a small scale, Hunstanton cliff, commonly denominated *St. Edmund's Point*, from King Edmund having landed there when he took possession of East-Anglia, may be considered as the only rocky prominence of much note on the coast. What other eminences there are, consist of clay, and are constantly becoming a prey to the depredations of the ocean. Much of the coast is comprised of a low sandy beach, covered with heaps of gravel and loose pebbles, here called shingles; which, through the violence of the waves, are frequently thrown up in immence heaps. These, by the continual accumulations of sand, are formed into banks, which are kept together by the matted roots of what is called *sea-reed-grass*. These are the Arundo arenaria, Arenaria peploides, Carex arenaria, &c. of Linnæus. Numerous banks of this kind lie off the coast, far out at sea; and being only discoverable at ebb, or quarter tides, they are justly the dread of mariners, and frequently prove fatal to coasting vessels. Of these the most remarkable is the large bank running parallel with the coast, off Yarmouth, between which and the shore is a deep channel, where ships ride safely during tempestuous weather, and is known by the name of *Yarmouth-Roads*.

The ranges of sand-hills on this, like those on the opposite coasts of Holland, tend to preserve a valuable portion of the country from continual inundation. A line of these, called the *Meals*, or *Marum Hills*, commences at Caister, two miles north of Yarmouth, and extends, with occasional interruptions, to Happisbury point; where two light-houses have lately been erected, and thence to Cromer Bay, where what are called the *Mud Cliffs* begin, and line the northern shore to Lynn-Regis. These sand banks are not all permanent—they sometimes shift their station, by a sub-marine route. Suddenly they disappear, and as suddenly they rise up, in a new shape, at some distant point: a curious instance of which happened on the coast near Yarmouth, about two centuries ago; which will be noticed in the description of that port.

The

The principal RIVERS of Norfolk are the *Great Ouse*, the *Little Ouse*, the *Waveney*, the *Bure*, the *Wensum*, the *Yare*, and the *Nar*.

The *Great Ouse*, or *Ouze*, rises near Brackley, in Northamptonshire, and having been previously joined by the Lark, the Cam, and the Little Ouse, enters this county to the south-west of Downham; passes under Stow, Magdalen, and German bridges, and then joined by the Nar from the eastward, empties its waters, after a course of nearly sixty miles, into the bay, called by Ptolomy, *Metaris Æstuarium*, two miles below the harbour of Lynn-Regis: where the trade of that port exhibits a crowd of vessels on its Estuary, called Lynn-deeps. The tide flowed up this river many miles further formerly, than at present; it being checked by sluices erected near Denver, for the purposes of drainage and navigation. This river, like some others, "is remarkable for its extraordinary swell, or overflowings, at the two equinoxes, and especially at the full moon of the autumnal one; when a vast heap of waters from the sea comes in upon it with such fury, that the inhabitants call it *eager;* which overwhelms every thing in its way, and the very water-fowl shun it*." It is navigable twenty-four miles above Lynn, for barges, through this county; and for small boats, as far as Bedford†: thus forming a communication by means of other collateral rivers and canals, with seven of the midland counties.

The LITTLE OUSE, or, as in some deeds it is denominated, *Brandon* river, rises in a swampy meadow, near the village of Lopham, in the southern part of this county: and taking its course westerly, by Rushford, receives a small stream from Ixworth. It is joined by the Thet, at Thetford, whence meandering through a sandy soil, it passes under Brandon bridge, and stealing along with solemn pace, through the uninteresting level of the fens, is then "*wedded*," as Drayton calls it, to the Greater



* Spelman's Iceni.

† See Beauties, Vol. I. p. 5, and Vol. VII, p. 342.

Ouze, at Littleport, on the borders of Cambridgeshire. The Little Ouze is navigable up to Thetford.

The WAVENEY also takes its rise at Lopham *, near what is termed the Ford, which, at present, is a causeway of about nine feet in breadth, with a ditch on each side, forming a passage over a swampy piece of ground, in the springs of which this river finds its source. Running eastward, by Diss, Billingford, and Harleston, it makes a horse-shoe bend at Bungay, in Suffolk, proceeds to Beccles and thence turns nearly in a northern direction to Burgh, where it is joined by the *Yare*, at the head of Breedon water. The Waveney is navigable for barges from Yarmouth to Bungay bridge, in Suffolk.

The BURE rises near Hindolweston, in the north side of the county, and taking its course by Blickling, becomes navigable at Aylesham. After receiving some tributary streams, and flowing under Wroxham bridge, it passes the site of St. Bennet's abbey, where it receives the Ant. A little further it is joined by the Thone, flowing from a lake near North Walsham; then passing under Acle bridge, and increased by the superfluous waters of the marshes, it joins the Yare, on the northern side of Yarmouth.

The WENSUM rises near West-Rudham, in this county, and being joined by numerous small rivulets, in its progress, it passes the city of Norwich, part of which it environs. At Trowse it meets the Tass, or Tase, and near Burgh is joined by the Waveney, and about two miles west of Yarmouth, it merges into the *Yare*.

The YARE is said to rise near Attleborough, and, taking a north-easterly course, joins the Wensum to the east of Norwich. But such are the ancient claims of the latter river, that the former is scarcely deemed a tributary stream, nor has it been clearly ascertained at what point the appellation of Yare ought to be affixed

* It is a curious, but not singular phenomenon, that though the Little Ouse and the Waveney have their sources in the same tract of swampy ground, and near each other, that they immediately take opposite directions in their course to the sea:—the one running due west, and the other almost directly east.

affixed to the river which forms the communication between Norwich and the sea. Much criticism has been used to settle this moot point. Perhaps the opinion of Blomefield is the least exceptionable:—That the river flowing by Norwich ought to preserve the name of *Wensum*, till it is joined by the Waveney at Breedon-meer, and then be permitted to assume the name of Yare.

The NAR, called also Sechy and Seechy river, has its source at Litcham, passes Castle-Acre to Narborough, thence flowing under Sechy bridge, falls into the Great Ouse near Lynn-Regis. It is navigable from the latter as far as Narborough, an extent of about fifteen miles.

The NENE is no further connected with Norfolk than serving to form part of the western boundary between this county and that of Lincoln.

Most of these rivers rise in marshy lands, and running through a comparatively level country, the fall is consequently small, and their pace slow; so that they contribute to keep the adjacent grounds in a swampy state, and to fill the atmosphere with dense vapours. Swelled by land-floods above, and their mouths commonly choked by silt thrown up by the violence of the tide below, they often overflow the low lands, and in their course form numerous small shallow lakes or pools, which are provincially termed *Broads* and *Meers*. These are plentifully stocked with fish, and much frequented by aquatic fowls. The principal of them are in that district, through which the Bure, the Wensum, and the Waveney have their course. *Breedon*, or *Breydon-broad*, to the south of Yarmouth, is three miles in length, and one mile and a half in breadth. *Hickling-Broad* is nearly three miles in length and about one wide. That of *Rockland* is one mile and a half long, and half a mile wide. In the vicinity of these are several of smaller extent, and irregular dimensions. There are a few in other parts of the county; as at Quidenham, Diss, and Hingham. In the fenny districts many temporary ones are formed, during the

winter seasons, in the vicinity of which are numerous decoys for catching wild-fowl *.

Canals.—With respect to inland navigation, little more has yet been done in this county, than widening and cleansing the beds of the natural rivers, and rendering them subservient to the purposes of internal conveyance; and many persons will be inclined to think that this kind of improvement, as to water carriage, is all that should ever be attempted in a county so circumstanced as Norfolk. Much has been accomplished in this way, and more remains to exercise the ingenuity, and call forth the public spirit of the people. A *canal* has been completed from Wisbech, in Cambridgeshire, to Outwell Creek and Salter's Load, in Norfolk, an extent of about six miles, to render more effectual the navigation of the river Nene. A few years ago, a proposition was brought forward, and met with considerable support, for making the river Wensum navigable from Norwich to Fakenham; but the difficulties attending the plan, and the expenses likely to be incurred in its execution, appeared to preponderate over the probable advantages which might be derived from it, by those parts of the country through which the line was proposed to extend. Mr. Kent, however, observes, "I believe this is not only practicable, but would be found to answer the expense extremely well; as it would pass through a corn country the whole way, from which the corn is now conveyed a vast way by land-carriage. I am at a loss to know why it failed of success; but should be glad to see it revived without loss of time†." Another plan, upon a much more extensive scale, was submitted to parliament, about the year 1791; in which it was proposed to cut a canal from the Little Ouse, at Brandon, to pass by Newmarket and Saffron-Walden, to the metropolis. By this a communication would have been opened between the ports of Lynn and London, and a conveyance

* For a description of decoys, see Lincolnshire, Beauties, Vol. IX. p. 726.

† Gen. View of the Agric. of Norf. p. 18.

conveyance might thereby have been made in only a few days. Had the scheme been carried into execution, "it would have added," says Mr. Colhoun, "more considerable advantage to the county of Norfolk than arises from any of the river navigations before enumerated." A canal was also intended to have been cut to form a communication between the sea at Lynn, in Norfolk, and the sea at Harwich, in Essex. The line to have passed by Swaffham, Hingham, Attleborough and Diss, in this county; and by Eye, Stow-Market, Bildeston and Neyland, in Suffolk; where it would have joined the navigable part of the river Stour. Another proposed canal was from Thetford to Bungay, to form a junction between the rivers Little Ouse and Waveney. Mr. Fox thus judiciously remarks on this scheme, "The distance from Thetford to Bungay being but thirty-two miles, it seems, that a canal, from one place to the other, would effectually benefit the whole county; as the streams of the Ouse and the Waveney flow towards each other, so as to lessen the distance above stated, some miles. It is submitted, that this navigation might be easily effected, commerce would then circulate round the whole county, and throw its treasures into this and the neighbouring counties*." With a view to the more effectual drainage of the fens, as well as to facilitate the carriage of heavy goods, an act was obtained in the year 1795, for making a navigable canal from the Eau-bank to Lynn-Regis; and another act passed, to amend the former, in the year 1805. Measures have been adopted for carrying this plan into effect, with all convenient dispatch.

There are several small cuts from the navigable rivers to private estates, for the purposes of carrying corn to the markets, and freighting back manure for the improvement of the land.

ROADS.—From the nature of the various soils, the roads of Norfolk might be expected bad; but the reverse of this is generally the case. By a comparative statement, according to Mr. Kent, they "are better in their natural state in this, than



* Kent's Gen. View, &c. note, p. 21.

in almost any other county *". At the time King Charles the Second paid a visit to the Earl of Yarmouth, at Oxnead, in the year 1671, when roads had not been improved by the aid of tolls, he is said to have remarked, " that Norfolk ought to be cut out in strips, to make roads for the rest of the kingdom †." Except in the marshes and fens, the roads are free from sloughs and deep ruts; and though the superstratum is chiefly sand, yet it resists the pressure of carriage-wheels a little beneath the surface; and the plentiful supply of gravel, afforded in almost every part, facilitates their repair at a moderate expence. Although this county claims the credit of having made the first road, in compliance with the *turnpike act* ‡; yet, since that period, most other counties have surpassed it in such kind of improvements. The number of turnpike-roads in the county is said to be seventeen, including an extent of about two hundred and fifty miles. Besides these, there are many public ways, thirty and forty feet wide, which are equally commodious for travelling, without the interruption and expence of toll-bars; having mile-stones and finger-posts erected upon them for the direction of travellers. Some of these are kept in order by parochial rates, and others are repaired by private gentlemen. " In short, the roads, though often

* General View of the Agriculture of Norfolk, p. 16.

† Sir Thomas Bevor, in his animadversions on Mr. Kent's General View, observes, " Might not this mean, that the soil was so dry and *barren*, as to be unfit for any other use but that of roads?" It may be answered, that Charles had long resided in France and Flanders, and had acquired an habitual politeness, which no English monarch knew better how to adapt to the subjects on which he remarked.

‡ Vide Hist. and Antiq. of Norf. This, however, appears to be an inaccurate statement. Was not the great road from *London* to *Harwich* the first that was made turnpike by act of parliament, and upon which the first toll-gate was erected, in the year 1679? This is highly probable; at least it is improbable, that this county took the lead: for the roads were considered so good, " that no turnpike was thought of in Norfolk, till they became common in most other parts." Kent's Gen. View, &c. p. 16.

often called bad, by Norfolk men, are so good, comparatively with those in other counties, that where the common statute duty is fairly done, a traveller may cross the country in any direction, in a post-chaise, without danger; and where the duty is not done, may trot his horse from one parish to another, at the rate of six miles an hour *."

## Natural History, Productions, &c.

The natural history of this county has hitherto been much neglected, or withheld from the public. Some researches have lately been made by a gentleman † eminently qualified for such enquiries; the result of which, it is hoped, will shortly be presented to the world. In the animated nature of the county, the *domesticated* part lays claim to our first attention. The *horses*, whether they be native, or a cross with the Suffolk, are a bony, active, hardy race, from fourteen to fifteen hands high, admirably adapted for the purposes of husbandry and the road. These properties have occasioned the preference, which is generally given to them before oxen, in the labours of agriculture.

The native *cow*, is a small animal, with short turned-up horns, "approaching to the Alderney," generally of a red colour; not a good milcher, but hardy, and calculated for barren pastures. Few of this kind are now kept by the large farmers. The Suffolk, polled, dun-coloured cow, having been generally introduced; and is deemed more profitable, though less hardy. The greater part of the cattle fed in this county for the market, are brought from Scotland, and purchased by the graziers about Michaelmas, at a large fair held at St. Faith's, a small village near Norwich. From their meagre appearance, they are denominated *Scotch runts*. Bred upon bleak and barren mountains,



* Kent's General View of the Agriculture of Norfolk, p. 17.

† The Rev. Dawson Turner, of Yarmouth.

these, when admitted to the rich pastures, lying between Norwich, Beccles, and Yarmouth, thrive surprisingly fast. Numbers also are imported from Ireland*.

"Great part of this county is known to have been, within the space of a century, a wild, bleak, unproductive country, comparatively with what it now is. Full half of it was rabbit-warrens and sheep-walks. The *sheep* were as natural to the soil as the rabbits, being hardy in their nature, and of an agile construction, so as to move over a great space with little labour†." Among the farmers, this breed of *sheep* is called *Norfolks*. It is a hardy, horned animal, with a black nose and black feet; carries a fleece of nearly two pounds; and when fatted, weighs about eighteen pounds per quarter. The wool was usually classed, for fineness, as a third rate among the native breeds; but lately it has been discovered, that the neck-wool of the Norfolk is equal to that of the *Spanish* sheep. This breed, Mr. Kent considers as singularly adapted to the local soil and system of husbandry; as they feed close, bear penning, fetch their food from far, and tend greatly by their manure to improve the land. Should the large breeds of Lincoln and Leicester be introduced to the general exclusion of the native race, a great number of the finest and most productive farms would soon revert to their pristine state of unproductive sterility. In this opinion both Mr. Marshal and Mr. Young acquiesce. What number of sheep is reared or kept in this county, it is difficult to ascertain: the inhabitants of some single villages are known to possess *five thousand.* Many persons

* "Last year (1795) there were actually 20,594 fat bullocks brought from Norfolk to Smithfield and Islington, and about 3000 to St. Ives and other places; but either from the war, or some other cause, this is considered rather as a larger supply than usual; but they may safely be taken at 20,000, as a yearly average, about one quarter of which are home-bred beasts, and the remainder Scotch and Irish. The sheep are supposed to be upwards of 30,000; at least they may be safely taken at that number."—Kent's General View of the Agriculture of Norfolk, p. 145.

† Ibid. p. 102.

persons keep whole flocks of ewes solely for breeding; and at the weaning time, sell off the wether lambs to other counties. A peculiar custom exists in Norfolk, respecting the grazing of sheep on commonable lands. The lord, as he is called, of every township, orders how many, and what sort of sheep, the people shall have, and where the walks shall be fixed both in winter and summer; on what spots they shall be folded for the sake of their dung; and how they shall be driven from place to place.

The *pig* of this district is comparatively a small, thin, bristled breed; very prolific, and the flesh esteemed savory. The people of this county have an excellent mode of curing hams and cheeks; but the practice of feeding hogs for bacon is very seldom adopted here. The quantity of swine has been diminished by the decline of dairy farms, and the enclosure of the waste lands.

*Poultry* of all kinds are very plentiful, and of a superior quality. Owing to the dryness of the soil, in the sandy and loamy districts, and the range afforded by the unenclosed parts, *turkies* are numerous; and the mode of feeding gives them a delicacy of flavor, which has stamped a kind of imposing pre-eminence on every bird which bears the name of a Norfolk turkey. The consumption of these is great, both in this and the adjacent counties; and yet such is the abundance, that immense quantities are sent to the most distant parts of the kingdom. It has been computed, that more turkies are bred in this, and the adjoining county of Suffolk, than in the whole kingdom beside. They are commonly driven on foot, in large flocks, to London, and other distant places. During one season upwards of three hundred of these flocks, of some hundreds each, have been noticed to pass Stratford Bridge, on the river Stour, in their way to the metropolis; besides what proceeded by different routes to the same market.

Norfolk furnishes large supplies of *geese*, which are bred in the fenny parts of the county. The dealers have taught these awkward birds to travel on foot as well as turkies; and prodi-

gious

gious numbers of them are sent annually to London, from the neighbourhood of Downham, Wisbech, and Lynn. The driving of these to market commences about the beginning of August, when the harvest being generally housed, the stubbles furnish provisions on the road, where they feed during the night; and continues till the rainy season sets in, about the end of October. Turkey-poults, goslings, chickens, &c. are taken by another mode of conveyance, which used to be by light caravans; but now they are principally sent by the stage coaches.

Of such animals as are *feræ-naturæ*, the *rabbit* claims the precedence; because it is made an object of trade to a considerable extent in this county. These profitable little animals are here extremely numerous; occasioned not only by their natural fecundity, which is proverbial, but also by the congeniality of the soil with their peculiar habits. So prolific are they, that it is with difficulty, in places, they are kept from increasing to an alarming height, as anciently they did, according to Pliny, in the *Balearic Isles*. Numbers breed about Castle Rising, Thetford, Winterton, and Sherringham; but *Methwold Heath* is a celebrated place for the finest and best-flavored. This spot was noticed as a rabbit-warren so early as the reign of King Canute, A. D. 1016.

What is denominated *game*, is very plentiful in this county. The arable lands affording both food and cover, and the gentry, being particularly attached to the amusements of sporting, have recourse to the strong arm of the law for its preservation. This tenacity on the part of the landholders, produces covetous desires in the tenants, is a strong inducement to poaching, and the source of numberless disagreements, which too frequently terminate in suits at law. Hence they are oppressive to one party, and disgraceful to the other. The various statutes, called "the Game Laws," are justly deemed the opprobrium of the English code; and in no county perhaps are these statutes acted upon with greater rigor than they usually are in Norfolk. The endless litigations upon this despicable point, have lately become the subject

subject of theatrical ridicule; and this county has on the occasion been made the *butt* of dramatic satire. "Searchum, get warrants immediately, for seizing guns, nets, and snares; let every dog in the parish be collected for hanging to-morrow morning. Give them a taste, for *Norfolk discipline*." Happy would it be for the country, if ridicule, as reason has hitherto failed, should be able to induce the legislature to abrogate laws, which, as they were made to support an assumed claim, can only be continued in force to protect an usurped right.

Though woods are not abundant, yet *pheasants* are so plenty, that they are frequently flushed in the stubble, like partridges. They are considered a nuisance by the farmers; but they certainly, by crossing with the barn-door fowls, improve the breed of the latter.

Woodcocks, snipes, widgeon, teal, ducks, and other aquatic fowl, from the numerous marshes and meers, are very abundant in this county. But among the curious birds, either residents or occasional visitors of Norfolk, the most deserving notice, because now almost become a total stranger to the island, is the *Otis Tarda*, or *Great Bustard*. It is the largest of the British land-fowl; the male bird on an average weighing, according to Pennant, twenty-five pounds, and expands his wings nine feet in breadth; its length is about four. He usually inhabits the heath-lands and moors. These birds are much less seen now than they formerly were. They appear, however, occasionally to the northward, in the Wolds of Yorkshire; and southward, on Salisbury Plain, in Wiltshire, and on the downs of Dorsetshire. Some of them are found on the western side of this county. They are very shy birds, avoiding the haunts of men; and though powerful on the wing, they seldom fly far without resting, and are never known to wander above twenty or thirty miles from the spot where they were first fledged.

The *Strix otus curtatus*, or short-eared, long-winged *Owl*, is an occasional visitant here. This singular bird, generally fond of

of uninhabited places, has been observed to frequent the hill of Hay, and other elevated spots in the Orkney Isles. It does not, like others of the same tribe, alight on trees; but lies under long grass or stubble, where it will sit composedly, looking at the person who attempts to disturb him. Like the hawk, he flies, and seeks his food, by day. He is a bird of passage, and migrates about the same time as the woodcock, travelling northwards towards the Shetland Isles, and thence to Norway*.

The *Corvus cornix*, or *hooded Crow*, commonly called the *Royston Crow*, from the number which frequent the vicinity of the town of that name in Cambridgeshire, is frequently an unwelcome visitant of the marshes. This species is more injurious than any other of the genus. When necessitated they will feed upon berries; but, instinctively carnivorous, they sometimes pick out the eyes of horses and other cattle; and frequently young lambs fall a prey to these winged harpies. They are birds of passage; are common in the Hebrides, Orknies, and Shetland Isles; which places are probably their retreats when they leave this part of England. That singular and proteus-like species of the *Sand piper*, the *Tringa pugnax*, is found in this county. The males are called *ruffs*, and the females *reeves:* both are distinguished by a tuft of feathers on the back of their necks, by which they may be discriminated from all other birds. The tufts of the males are much larger than those of the females; and such is the variety of color in their plumage, that perhaps never two were seen alike. The reeves never change their colors. A singularly instinctive habit attaches to the male birds. In the coupling season each takes possession of a small piece of ground, as his amatory station. Round this he continues running till the grass in his track is worn away, and a bare circle is made on the ground. When a female bird alights, if another male invades this circle, or at all interferes, the ruffs commence a battle, and the victor takes possession

* For an account of this bird, see Pennant's Zoology, Vol. I. p. 205.

sion of the reeve and the station*. This, in fowling, is called *hilling*. When a fowler discovers one of these circles, he places a net near it at the approach of night, and at day-break he approaches warily, closes it, and takes the birds; and these so taken he sets as *stales*, to ensnare others.

Environed by a great extent of sea-coast, abounding in rivers and streams, accompanied by numerous broads or meers, Norfolk is well supplied with fresh and salt-water Fish. The Bure, and its attendant broads, abound with various kinds; such as pike, tench, trout, perch, &c. &c. The latter are indeed so plentiful at times, that the inhabitants of Ranworth report, that they have witnessed a hundred and twenty bushels having been, by two nets, caught in one day. In the Yare, or Wensum, are found a singular species of perch, the *Perca cernua*, called a *ruffe;* which Dr. Caius has latinized into *Aspredo*. It is smaller, and of a more slender form than the common perch, seldom exceeding six inches in length. Sea-water fish are of all descriptions, and in great plenty. Two great piscatory concerns are carried on along this coast and the sand-banks in the North Sea,—the *mackerel* and the *herring* fisheries. The mackerel, which are gregarious and migratory fish, appear in vast shoals on this coast in the spring and summer, and during the season furnish an abundant supply of food to the inhabitants, &c. at a very reasonable rate. But the *herring-fishery* is the most important and most profitable pursuit. It commences in September, and continues about three months; at which time vast quantities are caught, cured by pickling or drying, and exported to distant places. Of this some particulars will be given in the subsequent account of Yarmouth.

## Minerals, Fossils, &c.

Few parts of the kingdom are so devoid of subterraneous treasures, as Norfolk. No *mineral* or *fossil* substances have been found, sufficient

* Pennant's Zoology, Vol. II. p. 459.

sufficient to excite a mining spirit; no veins of that invaluable substance, coal; nor any extent of stratification of useful stone. The substrata of the county, as far as researches have discovered, consist of clunch, chalk, in which flints are imbedded, gault, gravel, sand, silt, and peat earth. On Mousehold Heath, and in some other places, there is an expansive substratum of *clunch*, or *indurated chalk*, which is used for walls, and burnt for lime. It appears to have been formerly applied in buildings, particularly for coignes, mullions, and tracery of windows; and for sepulchral ornaments, and other works of sculpture; anterior to the general use of alabaster and marble. The chalk-pits, in the vicinity of Norwich, abound with those large beautiful *black flints*, which compose the walls of many buildings in that city; and the deep pits on Mousehold-heath are probably the places whence they were dug. In the *gault*, or argillaceous strata, has been found a clay which manufactures into an excellent kind of earthen-ware. Brick-clay abounds in various places, and, with sand, forms bricks of equal quality to those made in the neighbourhood of the metropolis. The *silt*, or sea-sand, finely pulverized, which is found at various depths, is used for repairing the roads. Through the whole of the fen lands, the *peat earth* furnishes the poor with an abundant supply of fuel.

On the shore, near Thornham, at low water, is the appearance of a large forest having been, at some period, interred and swallowed up by the waves. Stools of numerous large timber trees, and many trunks, are to be seen, but so rotten, that they may be penetrated by a spade. These lie in a black mass of vegetable fibres, consisting of decayed branches, leaves, rushes, flags, &c. The extent of this once sylvan tract must have been great, from what is discoverable; and at high water, now covered by the tides, is in one spot from five to six hundred acres. No hint of the manner, or the time, in which this submersion happened, can be traced. Nothing like a bog is near, and the whole beach besides is composed of a fine ooze, or marine clay *.

AGRICULTURE,

* See Philosophical Transactions, No. 481.

## Agriculture, Artificial Productions, &c.

The agriculture of Norfolk is in a highly respectable state, and when the nature of the soil, and the condition of the county about fifty years ago, be taken into a comparative account, the ability and industry for which the husbandmen of this district have long been famed, will be justly acknowledged. This county early took the lead in unshackling its genius from the fetters of antiquated system, readily adopted hints for improvement, and continuing to be actuated by the same laudable spirit, still exhibits an example of the most judicious practices in rational husbandry. Merely to take a slight view of it must suffice, wherein we shall observe many improvements, plans carrying into effect for extending the melioration of the soil, and suggestions for surmounting obstacles which appear to oppose it.

The first thing which attracts the eye of a stranger in Norfolk, is the fine *tilth* of the soil, and the *succession* of crops. The mode of cultivating the arable lands is worthy general imitation, wherever it can be adopted. The plough, which is of an admirable construction, is drawn by two horses harnessed a-breast, which, with a pair of reins, are guided by the person who holds the plough. Instead of working the animals seven or eight hours without drawing bit, as is the custom in some counties, "they are here worked eight hours in winter, and ten in summer, by two journies, as they are termed, which enables them to do considerable more than they would by one journey*." The ploughings are repeated till the land is in high tilth, when it is completely pulverised with *wheeled* drags and harrows, which are violently drawn by the horses being kept upon a *trotting* pace. Owing to this rapid movement, the clods are very effectually broken, and the land well prepared to receive the seed. After this is sown or planted, the utmost attention is paid to keep the land free from

* Kent's Gen. View of the Agric. of Norf. p. 36.

from weeds. The ridiculous custom of letting the land lie *idle* one year in every three, for the advantages of what is termed *fallowing*, is here properly exploded. The necessity of it has been superseded, and the reasons for it done away by a judicious course of *cropping;* so that one crop may fertilize as another exhausts; and in this manner are the lands cultivated, like gardens, yielding various crops in perpetual succession, to the mutual benefit of the landlord and tenant; and of general utility to the public. The mode of cropping in general practice, is what is termed a *six-course shift*, viz. first year, wheat; second, barley, with or without clover; third, turnips; fourth, barley or oats, with or without clover; fifth, clover mown for hay; sixth, grazed and ploughed up for wheat again. Some vary this mode by a five or a four course shift. Wheat is a general crop over the whole county, but thrives best on the stiff loamy lands. The lighter soils are favorable to barley, vast quantities of which are raised, malted, and in that state sent out of the county. Malt, therefore, may be considered its staple commodity. Both wheat and barley are principally either drilled, for which several kinds of ingeniously-contrived *barrow-drills* are used; or else planted with the hand by women and children, called dibbling. The quantities produced, according to the seed sown, are very unequal in different parts of the county. Lands in the hundred of Flegg and Marshland, usually bear six quarters of wheat per acre, and ten of oats; but in the very light soils, the farmer is glad to obtain two quarters of oats, and three of barley. "The average crops of the whole county may be stated at three quarters of wheat, and four of barley, and other articles in proportion, per acre*."

Oats are sown only as a shifting crop, and seldom more are raised than what are consumed within the county. Other crops are, rye, buck-wheat, peas, beans, vetches or tares, cole-seed, clovers, rye, and other artificial grasses; burnet, cocks-foot, chickary, cabbages, mangel-wurzel, lucerne, carrots, and potatoes. The latter,

* Kent's Gen. View of the Agric. of Norfolk, p. 56.

latter, though so valuable a root, and in many parts of the kingdom used as a preparatory crop for wheat, has but very lately been adopted, as a field course, in Norfolk. Among what are termed *irregular* crops, may be reckoned *mustard*, which is much cultivated between March and Wisbech. *Saffron* is also grown in the south-western district, and in some parts adjacent to Cambridgeshire. *Flax* is cultivated in the vicinity of Downham, and near Outwell. *Hemp* is also grown near Old Buckenham, Diss, Harleston, &c.; but by no means in such abundance as might be expected, when the congeniality of some parts of the county, and the peculiar utility of the material, are jointly estimated. For "these articles are of national importance, and if properly considered, it would be well if the cultivation were more general. No population can be greater or of a more useful sort, than that which is raised and supported by a country, where this practice prevails; as may be proved by reference to many parts of Somerset, Dorset, and Yorkshire; where it occasions so much profitable labour, that no person, in such a situation, need want employ*." "The hemplands of Lincoln, Cambridge, Suffolk, and Dorset, yield nearly the same crops, from 35 to 50 stone per acre; forty may be considered as an average crop; in which ratio it takes exactly four acres to produce a ton; and 120,000 acres for the given quantity of hemp imported of 30,000 tons†." To these cogent reasons for encouraging the growth of hemp, most imperious ones, from recent events, have arisen, by the Russian war, and the general embargo laid upon the American ports. Hence the enormous price to which the article has consequently risen; and the difficulties of obtaining supplies for the navy.

Some of the marshes and fens of Norfolk, as to soil, are peculiarly favourable to the growth of corn; but their liability to in-

 undations,

* Kent's Gen. View of the Agric. of Norf. p. 57.

† Young's Agriculture of Norfolk, p. 334. "In the year 1796, hemp sold in England for 61l. 10s. per ton, and 30,718 tons was the calculated import from January 5th, 1792, to January 5th, 1793." ibid.

undations, has induced the inhabitants to prefer the dairy system, like their neighbours in the adjacent county. In these parts, large quantities of butter are made, and exported under the name of *Cambridge* butter. The prevailing system being arable, the grass lands of Norfolk have been too generally neglected; but by the late practice of *marling*, they are now greatly improved; and by the adoption of *under draining* and *irrigation*, the grazing land is experiencing very considerable advantages.

Of *particular improvements*, &c.—The point of husbandry in which Norfolk is pre-eminent, and which has led to established excellence, is the management of its *turnip crops*. This valuable winter root was only cultivated in gardens, as a culinary plant in this country, till the reign of George the First; when Lord Viscount Townshend, great grandfather of the present noble marquis, who had attended the king to Hanover as secretary of state, observing the profit and utility of the field cultivation of turnips in that electorate, on his return brought with him the seed, and recommended it to his tenants in Norfolk, who occupied land of a similar quality to that of Hanover. The experiment succeeded adequate to expectation: the practice gradually spread over the county, and made its way into several other parts of the kingdom. This important root, the great source of abundance to the county, has been gradually rising to its present state, for upwards of seventy years. "A good acre of turnips in Norfolk will produce between thirty and forty cart loads, as heavy as three horses can draw; and an acre will fat a Scotch bullock, from forty to fifty stone, or eight sheep. But the advantage of this crop does not end here, for it generally leaves the land so clean and in such fine condition, that it almost ensures a good crop of barley, and a kind plant of clover; and the clover is a most excellent preparative for wheat, so that in the subsequent advantages the value of the turnip can hardly be estimated."* It has however been observed, that the cultivation of this root has reached its acme; and that at present, from some latent causes, it

* Kent's Gen. View of Agric. of Norfolk, p. 40, 41.

it is on the decline: for recently more seed is become necessary, and the crop is more precarious. Some persons have attributed this to the want of deeper ploughing, and Arthur Young, who is a strenuous advocate for it, adduces instances of the extraordinary depth to which turnips, and even *wheat* will radicate. These may be facts, but they do not tend to affix the cause of failure to shallow ploughing. For it is well known, that graniferous, as well as pomiferous, plants produce more and finer fruit, when radication is not too far extended downward, but forced into an *horizontal* direction.

No county has exhibited a greater variety and number of improved *Implements*, to facilitate the operations of husbandry, than Norfolk; nor evinced more readiness in applying them to practice. Among *wheel carriages*, the non-descript one, called a *wizzard*, or *hermaphrodite*, is curious; it is the common cart, to which in harvest, or in pressing circumstances, a couple of temporary fore wheels are placed under the shafts, and two oblique ladders to the frame, by which it is made to answer the purpose of a waggon; "and in little farms, it is a real object of utility, and in large ones a great help in a busy season." *Drills* are of all kinds, but a *drill-roller*, is probably peculiar to this county. It is a large cast-iron cylinder with projecting rings round it, at about ten inches distance from each other. This being drawn over the ploughed land, makes indentations, and the seed sown *broad-cast*, chiefly falls into the drills, and is thus more regularly and better deposited than in the common mode of sowing. *Threshing machines* are become general throughout the county, and are found to answer every expectation formed of them. The short time in which a large quantity of corn can be prepared for the market, by such implements, is highly advantageous to the farmer. He is enabled the better to prepare for the day of audit, and to profit by the changes of price in fluctuating markets. The powers of *steam* were first applied to the purposes of agriculture in this county; and the first *steam engine* was set up by Colonel Buller of

Haydon. It possesses a ten-horse power, turns a large threshing machine, a corn-mill, a chaff-cutter, and performs at the same time several other labours of manual husbandry *. On Mr. Coke's farms, an improvement on temporary *fencing* has been adopted, worthy of universal imitation. It is the application of *moveable gates* and *posts*, with hurdles, for partially eating off turnips, or depasturing grass lands †. *Regaining land from the sea* has in several instances been successfully practised. At Tichwell three hundred acres were embanked in the year 1786. In 1790, eight hundred and sixty-eight acres were embanked and enclosed in the parishes of Terrington St. Clement, and Terrington St. John. But the chief improvement of this kind, which has hitherto been made, was performed in Marshland by Count Bentinck; who in the prosecution of his plan lost his life. His son has however continued to pursue it, and perseverance has crowned him with ample success. The count's embankment extends about four miles in length. The construction of banks usually made for this purpose was faulty, in being too declivous towards the sea, by which they were easily undermined by the tide. The present is upon a new plan, and a bold scale. "The base of the bank is about fifty feet in diameter, the slope to the sea thirty-six feet, forming an angle, as I guess, from my eye, of twenty-five or thirty degrees. The crown is four feet wide, and the slope to the fields seventeen feet, in an angle, I guess, of fifty degrees; the slope to the sea nicely turfed ‡." By this great work

* "The general application of these it is hoped will tend to do away the use of water-mills, so detrimental to lands lying adjacent to streams. For, of the nuisances that a country can be plagued with, certainly water-mills class very high in the black catalogue." Young's Agr. of Norf. p. 391.

† A singular attempt at improvement has lately been made upon what may be deemed a retrogade movement. Salthouse and Kelley heaths have been reserved by an act of enclosure which passed in 1780 for a warren. The ground was subjected to the plough, manured, cultivated, and laid down with select sorts of grass for breeding and fattening *rabbits*.

‡ Young's Agr. of Norfolk, p. 437.

work a thousand acres of excellent land have been added to Mr. Bentinck's estate. It cost about five pounds per rod, and the whole expense was one thousand pounds. But nothing can give so comprehensive a view of the spirit and industry of the inhabitants, interested or occupied in lands, and the accumulated improvements, as the following brief statement of the number of enclosures, which have been made in about half a century. When it is considered, that Norfolk is not naturally a fertile county, that its being so productive now, is chiefly owing to human improvement; that it not only furnishes sufficient support for itself, and local trades, but also half as much again as its inhabitants consume, either to encourage manufactures in other parts of the kingdom, or supply foreign markets; it may justly be denominated, not merely a good, but a surprising county.

The following list from Mr. Young's "General View," shews the names of places where Enclosures have been made, at what time the Acts passed, and the number of acres thus brought into a state of more profitable and useful cultivation than when in their former condition:

| *Names of Places.* | *Year.* | *Acres.* |
|---|---|---|
| Acle | 1797 | 350 |
| Ashill | 1785 | 2974 |
| Banham | 1789 | 1000 |
| Barton | 1774 | 4087 |
| Bintrey and Twiford | 1795 | 1950 |
| Brancaster | 1755 | 2350 |
| Bressengham and Fersfield | 1798 | 800 |
| Brook | 1800 | 200 |
| Buckenham, Old | 1790 | 900 |
| Cantley and Hassingham | 1800 | 600 |
| Carleton | 1777 | 3000 |
| Cawston | 1801 | 1300 |
| Cranworth, Remerston, and Southborough | 1796 | 743 |

| *Names of Places.* | *Year.* | *Acres.* |
|---|---|---|
| Dunham, Little | 1794 | 1800 |
| Ellingham | 1798 | 2800 |
| Felthorpe | 1779 | 1500 |
| Fincham | 1772 | 2953 |
| Hetherset | 1798 | 750 |
| Haveningham, or Hevingham | 1799 | 2553 |
| Heacham | 1780 | 3329 |
| Hillborough | 1769 | 3020 |
| Hockam, Great | 1795 | 1000 |
| Holm-Hale | | 1000 |
| Kenninghall | 1799 | 2500 |
| Ketteringham | | 1200 |
| Langley | 1800 | 550 |
| Litcham | 1758 | 1700 |
| Lixham, East, and Great Dunham | 1795 | 3000 |
| Marham, | 1795 | 4000 |
| Marsham, under the Hevingham Act | 1779 | 600 |
| *Marshland | 1797 | 6343 |
| Mateshall | 1801 | 900 |
| Northwold | 1796 | 5000 |
| Oxborough | 1723 | 2000 |
| Poringland and Framingham | 1800 | 1140 |
| Ringstead | 1781 | 2697 |
| Salthouse and Kelling | 1780 | 2700 |
| Sayham and Ovington | 1800 | 1600 |
| Sedgeford | 1795 | 4000 |
| Shernbourn | 1776 | 1000 |
| | | Shouldham |

* The act passed in 1797 for the drainage and allotment of this immense tract of land, situated in Marshland, Sneeth, and Fenn, besides much private property, but the act was not immediately proceeded upon. It is still executing. 29,000l. have been already raised, and the proposed estimate to complete it is 5,280l. more; when finished, it is supposed the rentals will be increased by this improvement, 30,000l. per annum.

| *Names of Places.* | *Year.* | *Acres.* |
|---|---|---|
| Shouldham and Garbois | 1794 | 5570 |
| Shropham | 1798 | 800 |
| Shotteshams, the two | 1781 | 3561 |
| Snettisham | 1762 | 5000 |
| Stifkey and Morston | 1793 | 4600 |
| Stokesby | 1722 | 350 |
| Tacolneston | 1778 | 1700 |
| Torringtons, the two | 1790 | 868 |
| Titchwell | 1786 | 400 |
| Thornham | 1794 | 2100 |
| Wallington, Ulver, and North Cove | 1797 | 420 |
| Walpole | 1789 | 1300 |
| Wheating | 1780 | 4900 |
| Umfarthing | 1781 | 600 |
| Wrenningham | 1779 | 260 |
| Wood Bastwick | 1767 | 300 |

Notwithstanding so much has been effected towards bringing the whole of the land into a proper state of cultivation, yet there is still a great deal to accomplish. To state the proportion of cultivated and uncultivated lands, in so extensive a district as Norfolk, is extremely difficult. Mr. Kent, who published his Report in 1796, and deduced his information from the best observations and inquiries he was able to make, gives the following calculation of the number of acres, and their present state of appropriation, as the result:

| | |
|---|---|
| The space on which the Towns stand | 1,500 |
| Public and private Roads | 16,416 |
| Lakes and Rivers | 2,000 |
| Sedgy and swampy Ground | 1,500 |
| Unimproved Commons | 80,000 |
| Woods and Plantations | 10,000 |
| Arable Land, computed at two-thirds of the County | 729,600 |

| | *Acres.* |
|---|---|
| Meadows, Parks, and Upland Pastures | 126,692 |
| Marsh Lands | 63,346 |
| Warrens and Sheep Walks | 63,346 |
| Total | 1,094,400 |

Since this statement was made, it will be seen by the preceding list of enclosures, that the commonable land and commons have been very much diminished; yet the fielding part of Norfolk, and the waste lands are still of great extent. Of the former much lies in the hundreds of Brothercross, Smithdon, Grimshoe, North-Greenhoe, Freebridge-Lynn, Loddon, &c. And of the latter description, large wastes still exist at Attleborough, Turnmoor, Westear, Broadmoor Fen, Baconthorpe, Borough, South-Creak, Holt, and Flegg*.

" In a good corn year, when there is a free exportation, it has been said, that the four Norfolk ports export as much corn as all the rest of England; which I believe to be true, for it is seldom less than a million sterling in value, and often more; and though some of the corn comes down the Waveney out of Suffolk, and some down the Ouse, from two or three of the midland counties, this addition seldom bears the proportion of more than an eighth part of the Yarmouth export, and a third of the Lynn; which is not more than a tenth of the whole†."

The following calculation is given by Mr. Kent, as an average estimate, for one year, of the superfluous corn, seeds, and other articles, which were exported from the five principal ports of the county in the years 1793, 1794, and 1795. Exclusive of which it is supposed that enough was reserved to supply the people employed in agriculture, " for fifty thousand manufacturers, and six thousand seamen."

From

* Young's Agric. of Norfolk, p. 386.

† Kent's General View of the Agriculture of Norfolk, p. 141.

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| From *Yarmouth*, wheat, wheat-flour, barley, malt, rye, pease, beans, 267,358 quarters; deduct 7,479 quarters of oats imported, more than were exported, leaves 259,879 quarters, which amounted to | 440,440 | 8 | 0 |
| From *Lynn*, wheat, wheat-flour, barley, malt, rye, pease, beans, vetches, rape-seed, 180,158 quarters; from which deduct for oats imported 4,993 quarters, leaves 175,165 quarters, amounting to | 258,406 | 7 | 0 |
| From *Blackney* and *Clay*, wheat, wheat-flour, barley, malt, rye, and pease, 70,150 quarters; deduct for oats imported 364 quarters, leaves 69,796 quarters, amounting to | 93,774 | 18 | 0 |
| From *Wells*, wheat, wheat-flour, barley, malt, rye, and pease, 78,187 quarters; from which deduct 2553 quarters of oats imported, leaves the excess of exports 75,634 quarters, the price of which was estimated at | 108,899 | 16 | 0 |
| *Cattle*, 5000 home bred bullocks, at 10l. | 50,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 15,000 Scotch and Irish; fatting profit 5l. each | 75,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 30,000 sheep, at 1l. 10s. | 45,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Swine not less than | 10,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Rabbits, at least | 10,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Poultry and game | 3,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Wool, conjectured to be about | 20,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Herrings exported | 50,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 50,000 lambs, at 12s. each | 30,000 | 0 | 0 |
| | 373,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Add for corn, grain, flour, &c. as above | 901,521 | 9 | 0 |
| Total yearly produce sent out of the county | 1,274,521 | 9 | 0 |

After

After giving this enumeration, which appears to have been made from strict enquiry and careful calculation, Mr. Kent observes, "I have purposely brought the whole into money, with a view of shewing, with greater ease, what number of persons this extra, or superabundant produce is equal to the support of. And if we apportion ten pounds for the sustenance of a human being, one with another, which must be acknowledged to be a liberal allowance, when luxuries are excluded, it will appear that this county sends out a foreign supply for upwards of 127,000 persons. And if we take the 56,000 employed in the home manufactures and navigation from the whole population of the county, it will shew that the county furnishes more than a sufficiency for double the number of persons employed in agriculture and its appendant trades.

"Every impartial man who considers this vast produce, must be struck with astonishment: and as Norfolk is far from being naturally a good country, it must undoubtedly be to art and industry that this great source of treasure is to be ascribed. It is evidently so great, that no part of England, not even the famous vales of Taunton, White Horse, or Evesham, are supposed to exceed it in proportion of corn."

"Government must certainly draw from this county a much greater portion of revenue than from any other; for as nearly one-third part of all the arable land is sown with barley every year; and, as the barley crop is generally good, (half of it being sown upon clean land after turnips,) the return which it must make when traced through the malt-house, brew-house, and distillery, will be found to amount to a sum almost incredible*."

## TRADE, MANUFACTURES, COMMERCE, &c.

The manufactures of Norfolk, except what are intended for domestic use, or home consumption, consist chiefly of woven goods;

* Kent's Gen. View, p. 150, &c.

goods; which, in a great variety of branches, is still the staple trade of the county. *Worsted*, now a small village, is remarkable for first giving name to a kind of cloths made of wool, differently dressed from what forms those denominated woollens: the yarn of the former being spun from combed, and of the latter from *carded* wool. Dormics, cameries, calecuts, &c. which, in a similar manner, took their names from the places where they were first made, formerly constituted the principal manufacture. These were followed by druggets, serges, shalloons, duffields, &c. and these again have been superseded by crapes, camblets, frish, stuffs, tabinets, bombazines, poplins, plain and flowered damasks, shawls, and a great variety of fancy articles, most of which are manufactured from wool, mohair, and silk, by different intermixtures and curious combinations. In this ingenious and profitable trade Norwich takes the lead. But the articles that have usually been considered as being made, in the city only, have been produced by the joint labour of several towns and villages throughout the county. Since the introduction of machinery, the trade has been more concentrated, and is now confined to Norwich and a few places in its vicinity. A considerable manufacture of stockings is carried on at Aylsham; and of coarse woollens at Thetford.

Norfolk, by means of its rivers, &c. has a most extensive internal communication with the northern and midland counties. But having only two grand outlets to the sea, its foreign and coasting trade is principally engrossed by the ports of Lynn and Yarmouth. Wells, Blackney, Burnham, and Clay, though they share partially in the corn trade, may rather be considered as *fishing* towns. By the Great Ouse, and its associated rivers and canals, Norfolk supplies the central parts of the kingdom, with coals, wine, timber, groceries, &c.; and in return receives large quantities of cheese, corn, and malt. It participates also in the Greenland fisheries. Its foreign trade formerly was very considerable, especially to the Baltic, to Norway, Holland, Portugal, and Spain; and the valuable cargoes of timber, spirits, wines, fruit, &c. used to be so great in the time of Spelman, that "Ceres and Bacchus

Bacchus seemed to have established their magazines there." Its imports of coals and wines were next to London, Bristol, and Newcastle. At Yarmouth, the chief part of the commercial concerns of the county are transacted.

PAROCHIAL RATES, STATE OF THE POOR, &c.—From Arthur Young's Comparison of the Rates, during the years of scarcity, and at other times, it clearly appears, that the poor of this county have, for a long series of years, been extremely numerous, and very burthensome; that the number and expence have been progressively increasing, and though several houses of industry have been established, with a view to diminish both, yet they do not appear to have answered the intended effect. By the returns to parliament, annexed, the necessity of some new and different system of providing for the poor will evidently appear. In scarcely any instances are the rates in Norfolk below four shillings in the pound, and in some places they are double, and at times have been more than trebled and quadrupled. It is highly incumbent then on the Legislature to relieve the land of such a burthen, and to adopt some measure that may prevent the recurrence, under any circumstances, of similar evils.

The objections to the present mode of support, are its total insufficiency to answer the purposes for which the rates are granted; the enormous burthens they occasion, and the grievance to the poor themselves; as these are not provided for in a way calculated to excite industry, or produce economy. The labourer must be encouraged, he should not be forced. The poor man may be induced by various motives to adopt such a line of conduct, as to preclude the necessity of parochial aid; but this can never be effected by compulsion. The modern plans of provision for the lower class of society, have tended to destroy the two grand principles of pride and shame, which formerly operated as powerful preventive restraints in their minds, and served to prevent pauperism and mendicity. By the former they were led to attain necessaries and comforts by honest means; and the latter forbade them, without the most urgent need, to become troublesome to their neighbours. *Houses of Industry*, as they are called, have

have been the greatest nuisances under the existing system of poor laws. They destroy all proper distinction. In them the profligate and the lazy are associated with the aged and infirm. And such " establishments, militating with every principle of humanity and political interest, and not unfrequently with those of morality, cannot be too often, or too much reprobated*."

An establishment for the benefit of the poor, has been formed at Snettisham, and is found to be of extensive utility. This is a subscription mill, which cost eight hundred pounds, where a miller is employed at a certain salary, to grind corn at fourpence per bushel for whatever poor person brings it.

The following particulars respecting the POOR, &c. are derived from the reports laid before Parliament, and printed only for the use of the members in 1804. In this official document it appears, " That returns were received from six hundred and ninety-one parishes or places in the county of NORFOLK, in the year 1803: in 1785 the returns were from six hundred and eighty-three; and from the same number in 1776." It is then further stated, that " three hundred and eight parishes or places maintain all, or part of, their poor *in* workhouses. The number of persons so maintained, during the year ending Easter 1803, was three thousand nine hundred and ninety-six; and the expence incurred therein amounted to 44,967l. 4s. 8¾d. being at the rate of 11l. 5s. 1d. for each person maintained in that manner. By the returns of 1776 there were then twenty-four workhouses, capable of accommodating one thousand two hundred and five persons. The number of persons relieved *out* of workhouses was thirty-eight thousand seven hundred and eighty-six, besides four thousand and thirty-five who were not parishioners. The expence incurred in the relief of the poor *not in* workhouses, amounted to 124,765l. 15s. 8½d. A large proportion of those who were not parishioners appear to have been vagrants;

* Kent's General View of the Agriculture of Norfolk, p. 170. Note by Sir Thomas Beevor. In this interesting volume, the enlightened author has enforced his own arguments by adducing coinciding opinions, and statements from Sir Thomas Beevor, Mr. James, Mr. Howlett, &c. and it must appear very evident from these, that some reformation is wanted in the present mode of managing poor-rates, poor-houses, &c.

vagrants; and, therefore, it is probable, that the relief given to this class of poor could not exceed two shillings each, amounting to 403l. 10s. This sum being deducted from the above 124,765l. 15s. 8½d. leaves 124,362l. 5s. 8½d. being at the rate of 3l. 4s. 1½d. for each person relieved *out* of any workhouse. The number of persons, relieved *in* and *out* of workhouses, was forty-two thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, besides those who were not parishioners. Excluding the expence supposed to be incurred in the relief of this class of poor, all other expences relative to the maintenance of the poor, amounting to175,361l. 8s. 3d. being at the rate of 4l. 1s. 6d. for each parishioner relieved. The resident population of the county of Norfolk, in the year 1801, appears from the population abstract to have been two hundred and seventy-three thousand three hundred and seventy-one; so that the number of parishioners relieved from the poor's rate appears to be sixteen in an hundred of the resident population. The number of persons belonging to friendly societies, appears to be five in an hundred of the resident population. The amount of the total money raised by rates, appears to average at 14s. 11½d. per head on the population. The amount of the whole expenditure on account of the poor, appears to average at 12s. 10¼d. per head on the population. The expenditure in suits of law, removal of paupers, and expences of overseers and other officers, according to the present abstract, amounts to 6031l. 17s. 9¾d. The amount of such expenditure, according to the returns of 1785, was then 2,894l. 15s. 10d. The expenditure in purchasing materials for employing the poor, according to the present abstract, amounts to 1,459l. 18s. 7½d. The amount of such expenditure, according to the returns of 1785, was then 303l. 13s. 9d. The poor of four parishes or places in this county are farmed or maintained under contract. The poor of two hundred and fifteen parishes or places (including the thirty-six parishes in the city of Norwich) are maintained and employed under the regulations of special Acts of Parliament. Two hundred Friendly Societies have been enrolled at the Quarter Sessions of this county, pursuant to the Acts of 33 and 35 George III."

A TABLE

# A TABLE

## OF THE POPULATION, &c. OF NORFOLK,

As published by authority of Parliament, in 1801; with the names of the Hundreds and Towns.

| Hundreds. | Houses. | Persons. | | Occupations. | | Total of Persons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male. | Female. | Chiefly employed in Agriculture. | Trade, Manufactures, or Handicrafts. | |
| Blofield | 579 | 1,660 | 1,691 | 834 | 183 | 3,351 |
| Brothercross | 610 | 1,440 | 1,492 | 740 | 237 | 2,932 |
| Clackclose | 1,942 | 5,907 | 5,813 | 4,155 | 1,158 | 11,720 |
| Clavering | 764 | 2,517 | 2,599 | 1,495 | 436 | 5,116 |
| Depwade | 1,077 | 3,685 | 4,097 | 2,346 | 784 | 7,780 |
| Diss | 983 | 3,385 | 3,687 | 1,270 | 999 | 7,072 |
| Earsham | 1,066 | 3,304 | 3,651 | 1,456 | 653 | 6,955 |
| Erpingham, North | 1,331 | 3,359 | 3,684 | 1,585 | 482 | 7,043 |
| Erpingham, South | 2,002 | 5,526 | 5,961 | 3,121 | 1,184 | 11,487 |
| Eynsford | 1,454 | 3,945 | 4,230 | 1,794 | 636 | 8,175 |
| Flegg, East | 343 | 1,002 | 997 | 462 | 152 | 1,999 |
| Flegg, West | 404 | 1,390 | 1,431 | 572 | 185 | 2,821 |
| Forehoe | 1,556 | 4,616 | 4,392 | 3,385 | 1,923 | 9,508 |
| Freebridge-Lynn | 1,245 | 4,033 | 4,018 | 2,573 | 578 | 8,051 |
| Freebridge-Marshland | 1,103 | 3,180 | 3,354 | 3,182 | 269 | 6,534 |
| Gallow | 1,081 | 3,074 | 3,231 | 1,539 | 605 | 6,305 |
| Greenhoe, North | 1,543 | 3,525 | 3,991 | 1,304 | 853 | 7,516 |
| Greenhoe, South | 1,171 | 3,545 | 3,732 | 4,699 | 1,044 | 7,277 |
| Grimshoe | 764 | 2,274 | 2,342 | 1,442 | 425 | 4,616 |
| Guiltcross | 757 | 2,636 | 2,681 | 1,161 | 1,331 | 5,317 |
| Happing | 888 | 2,509 | 2,586 | 1,043 | 396 | 5,095 |
| Henstead | 640 | 1,947 | 2,094 | 1,642 | 461 | 4,041 |
| Carried forward | 23,823 | 63,457 | 72,254 | 41,740 | 14,956 | 140,711 |

Holt

| Hundreds. | Houses. | Persons. | | Occupations. | | Total of Persons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male. | Female. | Chiefly employed in Agriculture. | Trade, Manufactures, or Handicrafts. | |
| Brought over .... | 23,823 | 68,457 | 72,254 | 41,740 | 14,956 | 140,711 |
| Holt ..... | 1,487 | 3,513 | 3,973 | 1,609 | 856 | 7,486 |
| Humbleyard ..... | 544 | 1,964 | 2,091 | 967 | 236 | 4,055 |
| Launditch ..... | 1,406 | 4,637 | 4,847 | 2,215 | 766 | 9,484 |
| Loddon..... | 891 | 2,734 | 2,655 | 1,590 | 477 | 5,389 |
| Mitford ..... | 1,325 | 3,848 | 4,112 | 2,345 | 1,003 | 7,960 |
| Shropham..... | 1,006 | 3,224 | 3,263 | 1,792 | 683 | 6,487 |
| Smithdon ..... | 1,033 | 2,942 | 3,021 | 1,727 | 360 | 5,963 |
| Taverham ..... | 733 | 2,514 | 2,597 | 1,073 | 486 | 5,111 |
| Tunstead ..... | 1,672 | 4,058 | 4,335 | 1,935 | 839 | 8,393 |
| Walsham ..... | 582 | 1,747 | 1,754 | 1,101 | 197 | 3,501 |
| Wayland ..... | 752 | 2,316 | 2,474 | 3,028 | 1,186 | 4,790 |
| TOWNS. | | | | | | |
| Yarmouth..... | 3,159 | 6,463 | 8,382 | 15 | 1,399 | 14,845 |
| Thetford ..... | 492 | 1,075 | 1,171 | 149 | 367 | 2,246 |
| King's-Lynn ..... | 2,012 | 4,540 | 5,556 | 97 | 2,103 | 10,096 |
| Norwich, city ..... | 8,763 | 15,810 | 21,044 | 408 | 12,267 | 36,854 |
| Total..... | 49,140 | 129,842 | 143,529 | 61,791 | 38,181 | 273,371 |

## NORWICH,

The capital of the county, and principal city on the eastern side of England, is distinguished in the commercial annals of Great Britain for its manufactures, and in the topographical history of the island for the memorable events that have occurred here, for its numerous antiquities, and for various other objects, which we are about to investigate and explain. The city chiefly occupies the top and sides of a gentle hill; which runs parallel with the river Wensum on its western side, and terminates at a sudden bend of it. At this turn, and near that termination, a Castle, or military station, appears to have been established at an early period; and as the people congregated round it for personal security, or private advantage, they gradually formed, and augmented the town. It would be no very difficult matter to trace and develope its progress; but to render such account satisfactory and interesting, would require much research and investigation. It would also demand a larger space than can with propriety be apportioned to it in this publication. Of Norwich, in its present state, it has been said that it stands upon more ground, comparatively with its population, than any city in the kingdom, the buildings being generally interspersed with gardens, which latter circumstance has given rise to its appellation of a '*city in an orchard.*' The shape or plan is irregular, approaching that of a cornucopia, or bent cone; and has not unaptly been compared to the figure of a shoulder of venison *. It is rather more than one mile and a half in length, from Conisford Gate, in King Street on the south, to Magdalen Gate on the north; and one mile and a quarter broad, from Bishop's Gate on the east, to St. Benedict's Gate in the west.

Besides the Cathedral, it contains thirty-six Churches, and several chapels or meeting-houses of various denominations; has five



* See the Plan published in the *British Atlas*, which is ornamented with a view of St. Ethelbert's Gate, and the city arms.

bridges over the river, one of iron and four of stone. The whole city was formerly surrounded, except on the side towards the river, by an embattled wall flanked with forty towers, and had twelve gates: the former is dilapidated, and the latter have been taken down.

HISTORICAL EVENTS.—The original foundation of Norwich is easily to be ascertained. It has been attributed to Guitiline, an imaginary British prince; and to Julius Cæsar, who never extended his conquests and arms so far northward in the island. Polydore Virgil, who is reported to have destroyed many historic documents, that his own misrepresentations might not be detected, fancies that a town was formed here by the Romans. Passing by hypothesis and conjecture, let us attend only to rational deduction and authentic document, which should alone be admitted into historical narrative. Soon after the Romans established themselves in Britain, they either erected fortresses near the British towns, or invited the subdued natives to assemble round the Roman military stations. Hence it is that many of our chief cities and towns occupy the sites of such fortified posts, or are in the immediate vicinity of them*. Thus, it is probable that Norwich originated in the decay of Venta-Icenorum, as Salisbury arose out of Sorbiodunum, or Old Sarum. An old distich commemorates the former event:

> "Castor was a city, when Norwich was none;
> And Norwich was built with Castor stone."

"I have no where met with the name of Norwich", says Camden, "before the Danish invasion. So far from its being founded by Cæsar or Guiteline the Briton, as is pretended by those who embrace every story without weighing it†." On the origin of the *name*, multifarious opinions have been formed; leaving the wild conjecture of Polydore Virgil, who thought he plainly discovered *Norvicus*

* See Beauties, Vol. II. in Cornwall; and Evans's Tour in South Wales.

† Britannia, Vol. II. p. 94.

*Norvicus* in the word *Ordo-vices*, the name of a British tribe who inhabited the *opposite part* of the island, which opinion was afterwards adopted by Dr. Caius; there can be no room for doubt, that this place received its appellation from the *Saxons*. The word *Northwic*, in their language, signifying a *northern station, castle*, or *town* *. And on the Saxon coins of various reigns, the word occurs in their exergue, with the mint-master's name. Blomefield has enumerated several of these. One struck about the year 872, has round the head *Ælfred Rex*, and a monogram on the reverse, *Northwic*. About the year 925, a coin of Ethelstan was struck, which has a head, and round it, *Æthelstan;* on the reverse is a cross, with the words *Barbe Mon Northwic;* that is, Barbe mint-master of Norwich. Of Edmund, the successor of Ethelstan, there is a coin with *Eadmund Rex* round the head, and on the reverse *Eadgar Mo. Northwic*. The money of Edred, coined here about A. D. 946, has on the obverse, *Eadred Rex*, and on the reverse, *Hanne Mo. Northwic*. Of Edward the martyr, two coins have round the head *Edwerd Rex*, and on the reverse *Leofwine On. Nor*. Three coins, minted here, of Ethelred, called the *unready*, are extant; which have on the obverse *Edelred Rex Angl;* but were struck under different mint-masters. The first has on the reverse *Leofat Mo. No.;* the second, *Branting Mo. Northwic;* and the third, *Folceard Mo. Northwic* †.

Thus it appears from most authentic documents, that Norwich was a place of note previous to the Danish dynasty. On the dereliction of Britain by the Romans, the Saxons speedily took the advantage of their departure, to pour in their own mercenary troops, which they did on this part of the coast, under a pretence of assisting the Britons against the inhabitants of the northern part of the island. Quickly throwing off the mask, and changing



* *Wic* bears these different significations. Lye's Dictionarium Saxonico et Gothico Latinum.

† Blomefield's Essay, Vol. III. p. 6. where the abbreviations are filled up.

the character of auxiliaries into that of invaders, they began to erect fortresses to defend the possessions they had seized, and enable them to execute their plan of finally occupying the whole island. At this period, the castle of Norwich, or the fortification on the Wensum, was probably constructed. Browne observes, that "No small number of silver pieces have been found, near Norwich (at *Thorpe*), with a rude head upon the obverse, and an ill-formed horse on the reverse; with inscriptions *Ic. Duro. T.* whether implying *Iceni, Durotriges, Tascia,* or *Trinobantes,* we leave to higher conjecture. Vulgar chronology will have Norwich castle as old as *Julius Cæsar*; but his distance from these parts, and its *Gothic* form of structure abridgeth such antiquity. The *British* crosses afford conjecture of early habitation in these parts, though the city of *Norwich* arose from the ruins of *Venta;* and, though perhaps not without some habitation before, was enlarged, builded, and nominated by the Saxons*." The elevated spot on which this castle stands, a promontory at the north-western extremity of a ridge of land which extends from the site of the ancient castor to the Wensum, and commands a prospect over a large space of country, pointed it out as an eligible place to fix an advanced post. *Cerdic,* the founder of the kingdom of Wessex, may be considered the first of the Saxon princes who permanently established a monarchy in Britain about the year 519. At the same period the country, which was afterwards denominated *East-Anglia,* was probably colonized, "though the monarchy did not appear till after 530†."

William of Malmsbury observes, that *Uffa* was the first Saxon monarch, who assumed dominion over this part of the kingdom in the year 575. "But the genealogy attached to Nennius states, that *Grecca,* the father of Uffa, was the first sovereign of East-Anglia ‡."

The

* Browne's Hydriotaphia, p. 18.

† Turner's History of the Anglo-Saxons, Vol. I. p. 99. 4to.

‡ Ibid. p. 123.

The monarchy, therefore, was probably established between the years 530 and 540, and the castle erected about the same period. In the year 642 it is said to have been a fortified royal seat of *Anna*, the seventh king of the East Anglian line; and this is confirmed by a circumstance, which strikingly demonstrates how essentially useful to general and particular history, is an accurate statement of names and dates. From the register of the church of Ely it appears, when the diocese was formed out of that of Lincoln, Henry the First granted to Hervey the Premier Bishop of the See of Ely, a discharge of his lands from the service of *guard*, previously due to the *castle* of *Norwich*. This event, first noticed by Bede, and afterwards by Speed and Spelman, clearly shews the antiquity of the castle, as it must have existed prior to the monastery of Ely. And the sum paid by Hervey to the crown for the transfer of this knight's service from Norwich castle to the church of Ely*, evinces the great extent of the possessions belonging to the former in the time of King Anna. The occasion which led to the elucidatory circumstance was this. Tombert, or Tonbert, prince of the southern Gervii †, on his marriage with Etheldreda, daughter of Anna, granted her the isle of Ely for her settlement; which, for security, was to be held by *castle guard service* to the castle of Norwich. After the death of Tombert, his widow married Egfrid, King of Northumberland; but by repudiation, or mutual consent, she parted from him, and retired to



* The purchase money was one thousand pounds; which, for that time, was a very large sum. Bentham's History, &c. of Ely, p. 132.

† The Gervii were the people inhabiting the fenny district, at present comprehended in the counties of Lincoln, Norfolk, and Cambridge. This was ivided into two parts, and was from their relative positions, called *north* and *south Gervii*. Tombert, who possessed the latter in right of his wife, was one of those ealdermen, or princes, afterwards called *earls* and *comites*, who held one or more districts by royal grant, or in fee; and who, with the bishops, formed in those times the *supreme council of the nation*.

her own estate at Ely, where she erected a monastery, and became the first abbess about A. D. 673.

From this period till the reign of King Alfred the Great, we find but few events recorded respecting the castle of Norwich; but during the numerous incursions of the Danes, it was frequently possessed by them and the Saxons alternately. Its situation rendered it an object of importance to the former, and it appears to have been occupied by Ingwar, a Danish chief, in the year 870, when King Edmund was assailed in his palace at Hoxne, and killed by his enemies. The Danes took possession of the country, wintered at Thetford, and usurped the monarchy of East Anglia*. The reign of Alfred was distinguished by his repeated and decisive victories over those northern marauders; and one grand object of that monarch's care was to fortify the principal parts of his kingdom against hostile attacks; castles and cities, which had been destroyed or delapidated, he rebuilt, and constructed several new and substantial fortifications, which enabled him to make such military dispositions, as the impetuous invaders were never able effectually to counteract. At that time, finding the walls or ramparts of Norwich castle incompetent for repelling the mode of attack, adopted by the Danes, he caused others to be erected with the most durable materials, whereby he greatly improved its fortifications†. That it was a military station of note, and a royal castle in his time, is evident from the coin struck here, about the year 872, and already noticed. Of its having been, on the peace concluded between this monarch and the Danes, in possession of the Danish leader, Godrum or Guthrum, previous notice has been taken; and of its reverting again to the Saxons during the reigns of six successive sovereigns. But in the reign of Etheldred, the castle is described to have been utterly destroyed by the army under Sweyne, King of Denmark, in the year

* Turner's History of the Anglo-Saxons, Vol. I. p. 238.

† Blomefield's Essay, Vol. III. p. 5.

year 1004. This monarch was afterwards defeated by the Saxon Earl, Ulfkettle, and obliged to fly to Denmark. In 1010 the Danes again returned, and settled at Norwich, which they fortified. The castle appears to have been rebuilt by *Canute*, on his accession to the throne of England, about the year 1018, at which time its custody was entrusted to Turkil. The government was afterwards bestowed on Harold, who succeeding to the English throne, conferred this castle on a Saxon thane, named Leofric. Soon after the Norman Conquest, King William appointed Ralph de Waher to the Earldom of Norfolk, and gave him this castle for his residence. This nobleman joined in rebellion with Waltheof, the powerful Earl of Northumberland; but having been defeated he retreated to his castle of Norwich, which being invested by the royal army, he withdrew to Normandy; leaving to his countess the charge and defence of the fortress. The garrison, chiefly consisting of Armorican Britons, made an obstinate resistance, not yielding to the besiegers till compelled by the imperious necessity of famine; and then it obtained an honourable capitulation. The troops were allowed to depart the kingdom, as persons abjured and banished; on which the countess and her adherents joined her husband, who had been protected from the conqueror's vengeance, in the castle of Dol, or Dolence in Normandy, by the powerful assistance of Philip, king of France. On this occasion Lanfranc, archbishop of Canterbury, thus congratulated the English monarch. "Your realm is cleared from the infections of the Bretons, (Armoricans,) the castle of Norwich yielded with the Britons therein, and their lands in England; their lives and limbs being granted them, on condition, that they quit the kingdom within forty days, and return no more without your licence*."

The earldom and castle thus confiscated, reverted to the crown, and the king, A. D. 1077, conferred them on *Roger Bigod*, another of his Norman followers. After he was possessed of this



* Camden's Britannia, Vol. II. p. 94, Edit. 1789.

important fortress, being in the interest of Robert Curthose, Duke of Normandy, he retained it against William Rufus. Peace being signed between the two royal brothers, Earl Bigod was guaranteed, by a prior stipulation, in his landed possessions, and the government of the castle. In the reign of Stephen it was seized by the crown, but again conferred upon the family of Bigod.

In the reign of Henry the Second, it is stated by some writers, that Roger Bigod, who then possessed this fortress, rebuilt, or materially altered the castle, and that the present keep-tower is part of the work then erected. The same authors observe, that the castle was now rendered impregnable, but this is evidently a mistatement, for in the reign of King John, Hugh Bigod was expelled, and William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, with John Fitzherbert associated in the shrievalty of Norfolk and Suffolk, and were appointed by patent, constables of the castles of Norwich and Orford. Of these fortresses, Hubert de Burgh, afterwards Earl of Kent, was made governor. In the year 1240, the custody was committed to Hamon Passelow, to hold during the king's pleasure. In the reign of Henry the Third, Lewis of France sent troops into England to assist the Barons, when Norwich castle was besieged and forced to capitulate. Thomas de Brotherton, second son of Edward the First, obtained the honour and custody of it from the Bigods. In the time of Edward the Second, the honour consisted of one hundred and twenty knights's fees; *i. e.* equal to eighty-five thousand acres of land *.

The power of the earls appears soon after this to have been abridged, for the sheriff of the county was authorised by the king to use the castle for a prison, to keep persons charged with crimes in safe custody, till the itinerant justices should hold their courts of Oyer and Terminer, and general gaol delivery. This authority of the sheriffs was repeatedly resisted by the earls, which occasioned an act to be passed in the fourteenth year of Edward the

* Madox's Baronia Anglia.

the Third, empowering the former to have the privilege of the same gaols, and prisons, as they formerly used. Yet subsequently to this, for the purpose of defence, a governor of the castle continued to be nominated by the crown. In 1356, Roger Clark was constable. The office, though not entirely abolished, yet was gradually curtailed of its privileges by repeated grants to the corporation, and of its fees by reiterated alienations. Though it does not appear, that the custody was ever given to the body corporate*. From this period its history merges into that of the city.

Of the Architecture, ancient and present State of the Castle.—Some antiquaries contend that the chief part of the present fabric was constructed by King Canute; and Mr. Wilkins remarks, that "Although the building is of *Danish* workmanship, it is, notwithstanding, in the taste of architecture practised by the Saxons, long before England became subject to the Danes; and is the best exterior of this kind of architecture extant†." Blomefield conceives that the present structure was erected by Roger Bigod, in the time of William Rufus; and that it occupies the site of a *brick* building, which was raised by Canute. He also thinks it was considerably repaired and beautified by Thomas de Brotherton, in the time of Edward the Second. Gurdon, in his Essay towards a History, &c. of this Castle, contends for its Danish origin; and says, that Canute bore for coat of armour

* The former is evident by the tenor of various charters, and the latter from a letter of John Paston to his mother, dated 11th of October, 1470, the 10th of Edward the Fourth. "For my mastyr, the Erle of Oxyneforth, bydeth me axe & have. I trow my brodyr, Sir John, shall have the constabyllship of Norwyche castyll w^t *XX^li of ffee*, for all the lardys be agreyd to it." Fenn's Letters, Vol. II. p. 52. Compare the possessions here mentioned, with those annexed to it, at the time it was surrendered to King Edward, by Hugh Bigod.

† "Essay towards a History of Venta Icenorum, and Norwich Castle."—*Archæologia*, Vol. XII. p. 143, &c.

armour "lions passant guardant;" and that the impost stones of the great portal in the eastern front, have two lions carved on them in basso-relievo. From the same circumstance, Camden ascribes the building to Bigod *.

Mr. King, while he contends for the architecture being Saxon, supposes the tower to have been built in the time of Canute. "As to the keep, or master tower, the only considerable part now standing, the style of its architecture is, in many respects, so different from that of the towers erected in the reigns of William Rufus and Henry the First and Second, and the ornaments are so different from those which were in use in the reign of Edward the Second, when pointed arches had been long introduced, and were esteemed the most elegant of any, that I cannot but think the building of much greater antiquity (*i. e.* than the time of *Bigod* and *Brotherton*), and completely Saxon, though it is possible the staircase might be repaired, or even rebuilt, by Thomas de Brotherton, whose arms are to be seen on part of the wall. In short, as to the main body of the building, I take it to be the very tower which was erected about the time of King Canute, who, though himself a Dane, yet undoubtedly made use of many Saxon architects, as the greater part of his subjects were Saxon. And I am the more induced to form this conclusion, because I can find no *authentic* account whatever of the destruction of the castle built in Canute's time, either by war or by

* Mr. Gurdon, in page 36 of his Essay, "quite mistakes the lions, by fixing them either to Canute or Bigod, they being plainly the arms of Thomas de Brotherton." *Blomefield's Essay*, Vol. III. p. 76.

Thus writers and antiquaries frequently differ in opinion, and contend about a trifling point, which, after all, can prove nothing respecting the age of a building. The present dispute seems quite nugatory; for it has always been customary to affix armorial bearings on shields, and not divide and scatter the charges. Besides, in many specimens of similar architecture, we find the capitals, imposts, and archivolt mouldings, ornamented with sculptured heads of lions, birds, and various monstrous animals. They were most probably the prevailing decorations of the age, and not the armorial insignia of particular persons.

by accident, or of its being taken down, in order to erect the present structure, as is supposed by some *."

The promontory on which the keep is built, appears to be a natural elevation, excepting some little addition, which may have been made by art, by throwing out the earth from the inner foss; for it is plainly observable, that the ground from the castle, a mile southwards, is nearly on a level with the upper ballium, although it declines to the west, and is rapidly declivous towards the river, on the east. This circumstance was an additional reason to induce Mr. King to view it as a *Saxon* work. For he observes, that a "lofty artificial mount, with a round keep at the top, covering nearly the whole surface, are the characteristic marks of Norman castles; whereas, such prior *Saxon* castles, as were built like that of *Norwich*, on great mounts, or ancient barrows of still earlier date, cover but a small part of the respective hills on which they stand."—The area of the ancient castle, including its outer works, contained about twenty-three acres, the whole of which was surrounded by a wall. This space comprehended three *ballia*, each defended by a lofty vallum and deep foss. The principal entrance was by *Bar*, now Bere-Street, through Golden-Lane, by the Barbican Gate, which was flanked by two towers, and connected with the external vallum by a wall. On the eastern side, towards the river, was a postern which led to a circular advanced redoubt, where the river forms a double, or horse-shoe bend. On the inside verge of the outer vallum was a strong wall, the space included between which and the middle foss constituted the first ballium. The second ballium comprized the space between the middle and inner foss, and was defended by a similar wall. The upper ballium, as it was termed, because its altitude far exceeded the other two, circumscribed the citadel. The walls, according to Grose, "were commonly flanked with towers, and had a parapet embattled, crenellated, or garretted: for the mounting of it there were flights

* Observations on Ancient Castles. Archaeologia, Vol. IV. p. 196, &c.

flights of steps at convenient distances, and the parapet often had the merlons pierced with long chinks, ending in round holes, called oeilets."

The Walls of the city, built in the year 1294, were thus formed; but it does not follow, that those of the castle, erected at a more remote period, were so constructed. They have long been down; the outer and inner valla levelled, and the fossa filled up for building, and other purposes. Yet parts of these may be so far traced as to furnish some idea of their size and bearing. "The extent of the outermost ditch reached, on the west part, to the edge of the present market-place; on the north, to London-Lane, which it included; and on the east, almost to Conisford-Street. The postern, or back entrance, was on the north-east part, for a communication to the site of the Earl's *Palace*, the precinct of which adjoined, and contained the whole space between the outward ditch and Tomblands. The southern part reached to the Golden-ball Lane, where the grand gate stood *."

According to Mr. Wilkins's plan, the entrance into the Barbican, was at the south end of Golden-ball Lane, and not at the *north*, as stated by Blomefield. Over each foss, in this direction, was a Bridge; but only one of them remains. This extends across the inner ditch; and, by the statement of Mr. Wilkins, is formed of "the largest and most perfect arch of *Saxon* workmanship in the kingdom †." At the inner extremity of it are the foundations of two circular towers of fourteen feet in diameter, one of which was appropriated to condemned criminals till the year 1793, when the new buildings were erected. This bridge is nearly one hundred and fifty feet in extent, and rises from

* Blomefield's Essay, Vol. IV. p. 124.

† This arch is nearly semicircular, is 40 feet in span, and about 20 feet in height. The soffit being constructed chiefly of bricks, has induced some antiquaries to suppose that it was built by the Romans; but this is not a satisfactory proof. Mr. Essex contends, that the Saxons, as well as Romans, used brick in their new buildings. See Archaeologia, Vol. IV.

from the inner to the upper ballium sixteen feet. It has been much altered at different times, and is at present faced with squared flint.

Near the south-west angle of the inner ballium, is the square keep-tower; the antiquity and architecture of which have afforded a very fertile theme for disputation. "Its extent from east to west, including a small tower, through which was the principal entrance, is 110 feet 3 inches; and from north to south, 92 feet 10 inches, and the height to the top of the merlons of the battlements, 69 feet 6 inches: the height of the basement story is about 24 feet, the outside of which is faced with rough flint, and has no external ornament except two arches on the west side*." From the basement story upwards the whole building consists of three stories, each strengthened by small projecting buttresses, between which the walls are ornamented with semicircular arches, resting upon small three-quarter columns. The backs of some of these arcades are decorated with a kind of reticulated work, formed by the stones being laid diagonally; so that the joints resemble the meshes of a net. To give it a greater richness of effect, each stone had two deeply-chased lines crossing each other parallel with the joints, so as to exhibit a mosaic appearance. On the east side of the keep is a projecting tower of a richer kind of architecture, called *Bigod's* tower; and as it is evidently of the *Norman* style, was probably an addition to the original building, made by Roger Bigod in the time of William Rufus. "It is decidedly of the taste in general use subsequent to the Conquest, and continued through greater part of King Stephen's reign; and it was most probably repaired and finished in its present style by Hugh Bigod, who succeeded his brother William in the constableship of the castle early in the twelfth century."

* These arches, Mr. King supposes, were intended to deceive the enemy, by giving, externally, an idea of weakness in the strongest part. For the wall here is not only thirteen feet thick, but was in this place internally barricadoed with two oblique walls, meeting in an angle. Archaeologia, Vol. IV. p. 402.

century *." This tower, which is now enclosed, formed an open portico, or vestibule, to the grand entrance into the keep. It consisted of two stories, having one window on the north side, and three on the east, which commanded an extensive view down the river.

The interior of the keep is now an unroofed area, but was formerly divided by floors, covered in at top, and separated into several spacious apartments†. The basement floor appears to have been vaulted over with stone, some vestiges of which are still to be traced. It is conjectured, that the Well was situated nearly in the middle of the keep. Within this fortress there was formerly a royal chapel, exempt from all episcopal jurisdiction.

In the year 1793, the gentlemen of Norfolk thought it necessary to erect a new gaol for the county, and it was resolved to build it on the castle hill and attach it to the eastern side of the old edifice. Mr. Soane, the architect, was officially engaged, and the building has been completed from his designs; but it is to be regretted, that it rather disfigures than adorns its situation. Mr. Wilkins remarks, that all former reparations of the old structure were made to correspond with its style and character; but that the present addition is a most heterogeneous and discordant mass. "This venerable pile of antiquity has been the seat, and castle of defence, to British, Saxon, and Norman kings, and powerful baron chieftains; it has been the boast and pride of the province, for ages past; it was not less the admirataion of the stranger, than the antiquary, and this admirable fabric was also one of the few remaining models of Antonia, at Jerusalem; yet, by a recent change, it is now bereaved of its ancient beauty, under pretence of giving more internal convenience for the accommodation of its miserable tenants; but surely, whatever additions were necessary, might have preserved,

* Wilkins's Essay, Archaeologia, Vol. XII. p. 162.

† A perspective view of the castle, shewing the south and west sides, accompanies this account.

served, externally, the same character and apparent date of architecture with the mutilated parts of this stately pile. The interior has been gutted also, and equally as ill-managed; small courts, surrounded by lofty buildings, which almost, I may say, totally exclude every chearing ray of the sun from its wretched inhabitants. The felon, the prisoner untried, the debtor, and the gaoler, the guilty and the innocent, share in the calamity. Perhaps no place on earth accords better with Milton's description *:"

> "Dungeon, horrible on all sides round,
> No light, but rather darkness visible
> Served only to discover sights of woe.
> Regions of sorrow! doleful shades! where peace
> And rest can never dwell." *Par. Lost.* B. I.

The *Castle Precinct* contains six acres, one rood, and thirteen perches, and the summit of the hill is, in circumference, three hundred and sixty yards. The whole of the latter is inclosed with iron palisadoes, and iron gates. "Under an Act of Parliament, passed in 1806, the castle and its limits are vested in the justices of the peace for the county, in trust; by which they are empowered to build, repair, or alter any part belonging to it, as they may think proper †."

CIVIL

* Wilkins's Essay, Archaeologia, Vol. XII. p. 155. It is evident, from records, (Testa de Nevil, &c.) that this castle was used as a prison so far back as the reign of Henry the First, yet it may be proper to observe, it was not solely devoted to that purpose, nor was it merely used as a place of confinement for criminals, during the darksome age of feudal times, when justice was too often the arbitrary will of the monarch, and the execution of it left to the discretion of his tributary barons. From a variety of circumstances it appears, that the dungeons of castles in general, were used as places of confinement only in time of warfare, and it was illegal to appropriate them for coercive acts in time of peace.

† Norfolk Tour, 6th edit. p. 103.

## Civil History of the Town and City; its Progress, Charters, Liberties, Wards, Parishes, Political History, Population, &c.

The town of *Nor-wic* probably soon succeeded the building and establishment of the castle, and was originally occupied by the Romanized Britons from Venta-Icenorum, and the Saxons, who came first to assist, and afterwards to subdue, them. During the Danish incursions, it is said to have been burnt by Sweyne, who sailed with his fleet up the Wensum. According to some writers, it was chiefly occupied, at this time, by merchants and fishermen; but if so, considerable alterations must have taken place, in the course and extent of the river; for it must appear strange that such persons would form a settlement at a place between 20 and 30 miles from the sea. It is evident, indeed, that very material alterations have been effected in the tide rivers on the English coast, since the Romans left the country: and these changes have occasioned much embarrassment to topographers, and produced apparent contradictions in their writings.

From ancient manuscripts it appears, that a large arm of the sea flowed up to Norwich, till the time of King William the First; for at that period, the river, on which Yarmouth stands, was, by sands, divided into two large channels, and one of these being afterwards choaked by a similar cause, the waters were obstructed from flowing regularly over the marshes below Norwich, as they previously had done. The sea, thus impeded, and the lower part of the bed of the river becoming firm ground, occasioned the building of Yarmouth. There exists positive evidence of Norwich being a fishing town in the reign of Canute; for Alfric, Bishop of East-Anglia at that time, having bestowed his *Hagh* by Norwich, (the ground on which the church of St. Lawrence afterwards stood,) on the abbey of St. Edmunds-Bury, it paid an annual ground-rent to that monastery *of a last of herrings.*

*herrings* *. If the town was rebuilt by Canute the younger, in the year 1018, it must have had a rapid increase, for in the time of the Confessor it appears to have had twenty-five churches, and 1320 burgesses, of whom one was so much the king's vassal, that he was not permitted to depart, nor do homage to any other. At this time, the property, exclusive of the *Newburgh*, was divided amongst *four* proprietors. Of the part, in which dwelt 1238 burgesses, the King and the Earl of Norfolk had *sac* and *soc*; fifty were amenable to the court of Stigand; and, of thirty-two, Harold had the *soc*, *sac*, and *patronage*. Hence, at that period, the town appears to have exceeded, in the number of burgesses, either Lincoln, Ipswich, Cambridge, or Canterbury. It was then deemed a hundred of itself, containing eight hundred and thirty-three acres of land and meadow, having also a sheep-walk within its jurisdiction: so that it must have extended nearly a mile beyond the limits marked out by the present foundations of its walls. During the peaceable reign of Edward, and that of his successor Harold, it continued rapidly to increase, both in wealth and population; but in the year 1075, by the siege it endured in the rebellion of Ralph de Waher, it suffered prodigiously, and experienced a serious decrease. Many of the citizens, who had espoused the earl's cause, fled; others were banished by the King's General, Walcram, as aiders and abettors; and some were forced to quit the place from circumstantial necessity; it having been partially burnt during the siege, by which they were deprived of the means of residence. Between the years 1083 and 1086, in which the general survey of the whole kingdom, contained in Domesday-book, was made, it appears that numerous houses were vacant, though the number of churches had increased; there being, by the first part of the survey, twenty-five, and, by the second part, fifty-four †. The



* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. III. p. 2.

† "The survey was twofold, viz. first, what was *tempore regis Edwardi*, that is in the time of King *Edward* the *Confessor*, either *die quo vivus, et mortuus*.

number of burgesses, at this time, began again to increase, and the houses amounted to 738; which, allowing six persons for each house, makes the number of inhabitants, at that time, 4428. Though Norwich then contained this comparatively small population, yet it was in size second only to York, excluding the metropolis, as appears by the following estimate of the most considerable places in the kingdom. York contained 1118 families, Norwich 738, Ipswich 538, Exeter 315, Canterbury 262, Hertford 146, Warwick 113, Southampton 84, Bath 64, and Northampton 60. Enjoying an interval of domestic peace in the reign of William Rufus, and the Bishop's See being removed here from Thetford, a considerable addition was made to its population by the vast influx of Jews, who, about that time, came over from Normandy. They had first been allowed to settle in England by the Conqueror, as chapmen for the confiscated goods of his subjects; and, encouraged by his son and successor, their numbers were greatly increased *. In the reign of Henry the First, the government of the city was separated from the castle jurisdiction. And, in the following reign of Stephen, Baker, in his Chronicle, says, "the King gave licence to the city of Norwich to have coroners and bailiffs, before which time they had only a serjeant for the king, to keep courts." This was considered the dawn of the corporation; and, in the time of Richard the First, A. D. 1193, 'the inhabitants of Norwich were recognised under the title of *citizens*.' In consequence of a representation how much the place had suffered, in the rebellion

*mortuus fecit*: that is, either at his death, or at the taking a like survey while he was alive, and that must be between 1042, when he began his reign, and 1066, when he died; or, secondly, what was *nunc*, now, that is, in 1086, the year this survey was made; and sometimes it adds, *semper*, that is, in the Confessor's time, and even since to the present survey."—Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. III. p. 15.

* So partial was that monarch reported to be to these fugitives, that he is said to have sworn by *St. Luke's face*, his usual oath, "If the Jews should overcome the Christians, he himself would become one of their sect."

bellion of the barons against King John, and at other times, the citizens obtained leave to surround the city with a *Wall*, and to erect gates and bulwarks for its defence. These were begun in the year 1294, and finished in 1320; but they were not completely fitted up and fortified till the reign of Edward the Third, A. D. 1342. At that time, *Richard Spynk*, a wealthy citizen, erected additional walls, and towers with portcullises to the gates, and furnished the garrison with various military engines, ammunition, &c. such as were then in use:—These consisted mostly of espringolds and gogeons, arblasters and gogeons, with grapples, &c.

At this time Norwich was doubtless a populous place, though neither the account in the Atlas quoted by Blomefield, nor his own, appear to be accurate. The former, computing that only one half died in the great plague of 1348 and 1349, supposes the population to have amounted to 120,000. The latter states it at 70,000. Both these accounts, as applied to the city, at any period, must appear incredible, from the extent of the walls; but, if extended to the county, either might not be far distant from truth, supposing the one account to have referred to the population previous, and the other subsequent to, the plague. Upwards of fifty-seven thousand persons fell in the county by its ravages, and Bishop Bateman collated at that time, to vacant benefices, 850 persons.

The year 1336 will ever be memorable to the inhabitants of Norwich, for the influx of a numerous body of ingenious *Flemings*, and the introduction of the worsted manufactures, which are still denominated Norwich-stuffs. King Henry granted a new charter to the city, in the year 1403, by which Norwich, with its liberties, was for ever separated from the county, and made a county of itself, under the style of '*the county of the city of Norwich.* By virtue of this grant, it was to be governed by a mayor instead of bailiffs; and, in 1406, another charter was obtained by the corporation, for regulating the mode of choosing the mayor, sheriffs, &c.

This city, like many others in the kingdom, has suffered greatly, at various times, by the plague, and scarcity; and few places have sustained greater losses from accidental fires. These are attributable, not only to the quantities of timber used in building, but to the imprudent practice of covering the houses with *straw*, a custom not yet entirely disused. Two desolating *Fires*, which happened at the close of Henry the Seventh's reign, induced the corporation to issue an order, that no new erected buildings in the city should be covered with *thatch;* but this injunction not extending to those previously erected, some are still seen to retain this unseemly and dangerous covering. The prosperity of the place, which had begun to decline, was again revived in 1566, by the settling here of three hundred and thirty *Dutch* and *Walloons*, who had fled from the Netherlands, during the violent persecution under the Duke of *Alva*. In 1571, the number had increased to 3925, and by the invention of *bombazines*, and other valuable articles in the weaving manufacture, they contributed much to the general population of the place. In 1574, when a rumour was spread of invasion, by means of the boasted *Invincible Armada*, Norwich, towards the general defence, exhibited, on its muster-roll, 2120 able men; 400 of whom were armed. In 1578, Queen Elizabeth made a progress through the county, and took up her abode, for several days, in this city, where she was entertained with much ostentatious pageantry of shew, hospitality, and effusions of loyalty. In the time of Charles the First, the city declared for the parliament, and, during that rebellion, it was possessed by their forces till Cromwell was declared Protector of the Realm. In the year 1663, the charter was renewed by Charles the Second, resumed by James the Second, or, at least, the privileges suspended; and restored to its full extent again in 1688. By virtue of this, the government is vested in a mayor, recorder, steward, two sheriffs, twenty-four aldermen, of which the mayor is one, and sixty common councilmen; a town-clerk, chamberlain, sword-bearer, and other officers. In the third year of Queen Mary's reign, A. D. 1556, the extent of ground, called "the city and county of Norwich," was ascertained

tained and confirmed; by which it appears to be fourteen miles in circumference, comprehending nearly 6,630 acres. The measurement from the Guildhall, in the market-place, is, to Mile-cross, on the north, one mile and six furlongs; to Thorpe, east, one mile and four furlongs; to Harford-bridges, south, two miles and two furlongs; to Earlham Bounds, west, two miles and four furlongs.

Norwich was early represented in parliament: it received the first summons in the twenty-fifth year of Edward the First, to send members to the national council; but it is unknown who were returned on that occasion; the list of parliamentary burgesses commencing the following year. In 1403, the fourth year of Henry the Fourth, the king's writ summoned *four citizens* to be returned to parliament for this city; but so far was amplitude of representation then from being considered an extent of patronage, that the city employed John de Alford to obtain the king's licence to send *two only*, as before; whose services were remunerated by the payment of three pounds. The king evidently meant to confer additional honor upon the citizens by this extraordinary privilege; but burgesses in parliament, at that period, were allowed *wages* for their attendance, and the citizens objected to this distinguished mark of royal favor, upon the ground of additional expense *. The city, at present, sends two members, who are chosen by the freeholders, and by certain other persons who are free of the city by inheritance, servitude, or purchase: The sheriffs, for the time being, are the returning officers. By a private statute, passed in the year 1730, 'for the better regulating elections in the city of Norwich,' it is enacted, 'that the right of election is in the freeholders, and such freemen of the city only as are entered in the books, and do not receive alms or charity.'

Till within a few years, the population of Norwich had been increasing. From the year 1693, in which the first accurate enu-

 meration

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. III. p. 120.

meration was taken, to 1752, the number of inhabitants had increased 7288, which is rather more than 123½ annually. From the year 1752, to 1786, the increase was 3882, or rather above 121 for each year. During the whole period, the addition to the number, *communibus annis*, was about 131, making a total increase of 11,170 *. By the annexed parochial list, the average annual augmentation may be easily ascertained. But this increase is owing principally to strangers resorting to Norwich, as a manufacturing place; for, by comparing two tables of births and deaths within the city, the one from the year 1719 to 1741 inclusive, and the other from 1781 to 1800, inclusive, the average number of births has been exceeded by the number of deaths †. The decrease in the population, observable in the table, since 1786, is 3197. But it ought to be recollected, that 1786 was a year of peace, and that in the returns of 1801, those serving in the army, navy, and militia, were not included.

* In the Norfolk Tour, p. 85 these numbers are incorrectly stated.

† See Norfolk Tour, p. 87 and 88.

A TABLE

# A TABLE

## OF THE POPULATION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF NORWICH,

## In the Years 1801, 1786, 1752, and 1693.

| Parishes. | Houses. | Persons. | | Total Persons 1801. | Persons 1786. | Persons 1752. | Persons 1693. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Males. | Females | | | | |
| St. Peter, Southgate | 123 | 171 | 207 | 378 | 507 | 425 | 470 |
| St. Etheldred | 68 | 112 | 140 | 252 | 254 | 247 | 243 |
| St. Julian | 201 | 297 | 365 | 662 | 846 | 595 | 593 |
| St. Peter, per Mountergate | 316 | 519 | 831 | 1,350 | 1,362 | 1,480 | 1,376 |
| St. John, Sepulchre | 312 | 481 | 665 | 1,144 | 1,114 | 1,004 | 781 |
| St. Michael, at Thorn | 402 | 531 | 667 | 1,198 | 1,442 | 1,127 | 865 |
| St. John, Timberhill | 231 | 406 | 482 | 888 | 975 | 890 | 668 |
| All Saints | 176 | 293 | 408 | 701 | 825 | 578 | 425 |
| St. Stephen | 541 | 911 | 1,300 | 2,211 | 2,360 | 2,314 | 1,769 |
| St. Peter, Mancroft | 460 | 893 | 1,227 | 2,120 | 2,299 | 2,288 | 1,953 |
| St. Giles | 239 | 443 | 633 | 1,076 | 1,117 | 961 | 910 |
| St. Benedict | 227 | 364 | 466 | 830 | 900 | 715 | 652 |
| St. Swithin | 120 | 225 | 278 | 503 | 643 | 751 | 496 |
| St. Margaret | 173 | 262 | 400 | 662 | 859 | 856 | 664 |
| St. Lawrence | 269 | 375 | 524 | 899 | 1,018 | 952 | 668 |
| St. Gregory | 221 | 439 | 618 | 1,057 | 1,113 | 1,202 | 772 |
| St. John, Maddermarket | 160 | 378 | 320 | 1,698 | 1,571 | 1,107 | 657 |
| St. Andrew | 235 | 770 | 1,088 | 1,858 | 1,773 | 1,334 | 935 |
| St. Michael, at Plea | 77 | 183 | 263 | 446 | 502 | 482 | 479 |
| St. Peter, Hungate | 88 | 158 | 213 | 371 | 394 | 341 | 267 |
| St. George, Tombland | 135 | 296 | 454 | 750 | 720 | 737 | 722 |
| St. Simon and Jude | 83 | 151 | 182 | 333 | 443 | 420 | 362 |
| Carried forward | 4,857 | 9,158 | 12,229 | 21,387 | 23,087 | 20,806 | 16,727 |

| Parishes. | Houses. | Persons. Males. | Persons. Females | Total Persons 1801. | Persons 1786. | Persons 1752. | Persons 1693. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brought over | 4,857 | 9,156 | 12,229 | 21,367 | 23,037 | 20,806 | 16,727 |
| St. Martin, at Palace | 253 | 418 | 518 | 936 | 1,109 | 1,083 | 819 |
| St. Helen | 80 | 195 | 198 | 393 | 446 | 386 | 338 |
| St. Michael, Coslany | 255 | 435 | 596 | 1,031 | 1,185 | 1,046 | 1,026 |
| St. Mary | 306 | 404 | 614 | 1,018 | 1,202 | 1,178 | 949 |
| St. Martin, at Oak | 370 | 754 | 993 | 1,747 | 2,153 | 1,698 | 1,243 |
| St. Augustine | 402 | 537 | 695 | 1,232 | 1,899 | 1,226 | 850 |
| St. George, Colegate | 283 | 462 | 670 | 1,132 | 1,272 | 1,295 | 1,154 |
| St. Clement | 146 | 351 | 502 | 853 | 800 | 816 | 593 |
| St. Edmund | 99 | 207 | 239 | 446 | 531 | 520 | 370 |
| St. Saviour | 225 | 410 | 574 | 984 | 593 | 810 | 701 |
| St. Paul | 378 | 609 | 786 | 1,395 | 1,681 | 1,461 | 983 |
| St. James | 251 | 230 | 290 | 520 | 608 | 696 | 416 |
| Pockthorpe | 241 | 398 | 581 | 979 | 1,272 | 1,116 | 732 |
| Heigham | 227 | 381 | 473 | 854 | 923 | 653 | 544 |
| HAMLETS. | | | | | | | |
| Lakenham | 89 | 165 | 263 | 428 | 486 | 165 | 321 |
| Eaton | 38 | 126 | 152 | 278 | 260 | 226 | 153 |
| Earlham | 12 | 52 | 43 | 95 | 66 | 68 | 50 |
| Hellesdon | 17 | 40 | 41 | 81 | 108 | 70 | 65 |
| Thorpe | 17 | 39 | 35 | 74 | 82 | 36 | 69 |
| Trowse, Carrow, and Bracond | 89 | 166 | 187 | 353 | 348 | 386 | 258 |
| Precinct of the Close | 118 | 255 | 361 | 616 | — | 700 | 650 |
| Norwich Goal | — | 18 | 4 | 22 | — | — | — |
| Total | 8,763 | 15,810 | 21,044 | 36,854 | 40,051 | 36,169 | 28,881 |

## Manufactures, &c.

Among the numerous subjects which solicit the attention of a topographical and statistical writer, who is desirous to interest his readers, none appear of greater importance than the manufactures of a country. They are its grand source of wealth, whence it flows into the main conduits of trade, and again divided into smaller channels, its ramifications proceed to an incalculable extent. Employing capital, exciting industry, and remunerating labour, they are the means of diffusing wealth, plenty, and comfort through every corner of the land. The confined limits of this work will not admit such a comprehensive inquiry as might be desirable on the present subject; but the brief view which is intended to be given, will be sufficient to shew the importance, interest, and versatility of it. The languishing state of manufactures, owing to the length and peculiar character of the present baleful and paralyzing war, is productive of lamentable evils, and should be a matter of serious and solid contemplation to every patriotic statesman, who wishes to turn his thoughts to the prosperity of the country, and to the developement of those causes by which that prosperity has been produced and increased, diminished or destroyed.

No place in the kingdom, Manchester excepted, has made a more distinguished figure in the weaving trade than the city of Norwich. At what era of our history the art of manufacturing cloth from *wool* was first practised in this island, is not recorded. Like many other necessary and useful arts, its origin is wrapped in the oblivion of distant ages; and from that circumstance it is highly probable this was amongst the most early discoveries. That this art was exercised at a very early period in Norfolk, has been conjectured from the circumstance of the simple and primitive mode of spinning with a *distaff* being still retained here, though disused in most other parts of the kingdom, except

except for hemp and flax *. Anterior to the time of William the Conqueror, woollens of various qualities and texture composed the principal manufactures; but soon after that period a sort of cloth-work was introduced, which, though not a *new* discovery, had not been previously practised in England. This was a totally different production from what had usually been denominated cloth; the preparation being, as before observed, by a *combing*, instead of a *carding* process. By the former the wool is drawn out to a very long, in the latter to a short staple; that is, the fibres of the fleece are extended the whole length in the one instance, and broken and internected in the other. The art of *combing* wool is attributed as a discovery to Blasius, a bishop of the eastern church in the fourth century, who is still by the wool-combers venerated as the patron saint of their trade. Respecting the time it was first exercised in this county different opinions have been entertained. Owing to an inundation in Flanders, numbers of the inhabitants of that province came over to this country in the time of Henry the First. Some of them settled in Pembrokeshire; and Blomefield supposes that others fixed their abode, first at *Worstead*, and afterwards at Norwich; and from their setting up the making the articles manufactured from *jersey*, or combed wool, at the former place, such have ever since been denominated *worsted stuffs*. In the reign of Edward the Second a patent was granted to John Pecock, investing him with the exclusive privilege of measuring every piece of worsted stuff made in the city of Norwich, or county of Norfolk. But this having been found to operate as a restraint upon the trade, the letters were soon afterwards recalled. What tended to increase and raise to an enviable height this species of manufacture, was the number of Flemish artizans who came over in the year 1336. Their arrival was occasioned by the great intercourse at that time kept up between this country and the Netherlands, the English king having married Philippa, daughter of William Earl of Hainault. The account given of it by

* It is still used in Portugal for wool.

by a quaint, but solid historian, is deserving notice. "The king and state began now to grow sensible of the great gain the Netherlands got by our *English* wool, in memory whereof the Duke of Burgundy, not long after, instituted the order of the *golden fleece;* wherein indeed the *fleece* was ours, the *golden* theirs, so vast their emolument by the trade of clothing. Our king therefore resolved, if possible, to reduce the trade to his own country, who as yet were ignorant; as knowing no more what to do with their wool than the sheep that wear it, as to any artificial and curious *drapery,* their best *cloths* being no better than *freezes,* such their coarseness for want of skill in their making*." The king, having obtained this treasure of foreign artizans, that the arts they brought might be more generally dispersed, encouraged them to settle in different parts of his dominions. But when left to their unbiassed choice, they always preferred a maritime situation; and both the bearing of the county and habits of the people determined many in their choice of Norfolk. The discovery of *Fuller's-earth,* at this time, a substance so useful in the trade, and with which England abounds, did not a little contribute to further their exertions in the weaving craft. Various staples were appointed for the sale of wool, and its exportation was prohibited under heavy penalties. On this occasion the city of Norwich was fixed for the staple of the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. In the time of Richard the Second and succeeding reigns, various statutes were enacted for the encouragement and regulation of the trade; by further prohibitions against sending unmanufactured wool out of the kingdom, and for the measuring the manufactured articles, as well as for the sale of cloth. Though the *alnage* had been dropped, as tending to depress the spirit of speculation, yet it was deemed necessary, in the early progress towards manufacturing excellence, that officers should be appointed, whose duty it was to inspect all goods, and pass them, by affixing a seal, as a mark of approbation to the approved pieces. In the twenty-third year of Henry the Sixth, an act

* Fuller's Church History of Britain, Book IV. Cent. XIV. p. 111.

act passed ordering four wardens to be chosen for the city of Norwich, and four others for the county of Norfolk, "To do right, and make due search of worsteads in Norwich and Norfolk, and which shall set down orders for the *true making thereof**." It having been discovered in the following reign, "that divers persons in Norwich and Norfolk make *untrue* wares, by which means they lose their ancient estimation beyond sea, &c." the number of wardens was increased. From this act it seems the trade had arrived at such a degree of excellence as to rival other nations in the foreign market; and English goods probably then obtained an extensive sale in those very countries whence the art had first been imported. In the time of Henry the Eighth, according to Blomefield, the sale of stuffs made in the city of Norwich only, amounted to the annual sum of 200,000l. exclusive of stockings, which was computed at 60,000l. more. Not only did the trade thus flourish at Norwich and Worstead, but it had now spread over the county: for, by an act passed in the fourteenth year of this reign, it appears, "that the making of worsteds, saies, and stammins, which had greatly increased in the city of Norwich and county of Norfolk, was now practised more busily and diligently than in times past at Yarmouth and Lynn." The wardens of these towns, therefore, were put under the control of the jurisdiction of Norwich†.

During

* In the year 1459, at an assembly of the clothiers under the late regulations, it was agreed that the *cloth seal* should be committed to a proper person, who should be considered sole *tokener*, to seal and token all cloths, called Norwich cloths, with a lead seal or token, after he had found them the proper length and breadth. All the weavers were ordered to deliver in a roll, containing the names of their craft, with the several marks belonging to each individual; by which the goodness of every man's work might be ascertained by his mark, and the measure of it by the token.

† From the wording of the preamble of an act which passed upon the same subject during this reign, a respectable writer has concluded that Norfolk then produced a breed of sheep peculiar to itself; because it

asserts,

During the reigns of Edward the Sixth and Queen Mary, new articles of manufacture continued to be introduced, and new regulations passed for the making of *russells*, satins, satins-reverses, and Naples-fustians, as had been done before for the making of hats, dornicks, and coverlets; and the manufacturers of such new articles were formed into a corporation, endowed with exclusive privileges. Subsequent to this, the trade fell into decay, and a new era of its revival commenced. By the advice of the Duke of Norfolk, Queen Elizabeth was induced to offer an asylum in her dominions to the inhabitants of the Low Countries, who had fled from the cruel persecution of the Duke of Alva. These people brought with them their arts and their industry, and quickly evinced the folly of attempting compulsion in *religious* matters, and the wisdom and policy of an enlightened toleration. They were allowed to settle in Norfolk, and each master to bring with him ten servants at the duke's charge. They rapidly increased, and the county was essentially benefited by their skill and exertions. New fabrications were introduced by the intermixture of silk, mohair, and wool; and several new articles were manufactured as various in their qualities as their names; such as *bayes*, *sayes*, *arras*, and *mochades*.

In 1575, the Dutch Elders presented in court a specimen of a novel work, called *bombazines*; for the manufacturing of which elegant stuff the city has ever since been famed. In the reign of George the First, an act passed to compel the makers of *any* kind of stuff to become freemen of Norwich, as the manufacturers of russells and fustians had formerly been. The preamble states, that it was made to furnish the city with a proper supply of able magistrates; but the policy of the measure lay deeper than

asserts, "that worsted yarn is the private commodity of the city of Norwich and the county of Norfolk, and no where else." But this appears rather to allude to the exclusive privileges obtained by various preceding statutes. For though the neck-wool of the Norfolk sheep has lately been discovered of a fineness as *twenty* to *seven* of the body; yet its fibre does not suit the staple manufacture of the county.

than the statement. In the twenty-fifth year of George the Second, a statute was enacted to open the port of Great Yarmouth for the importation of wool and woollen-yarn; a circumstance which proved highly beneficial to the general trade of the city and county.

From this glance at some of the statutes, which have been enacted, and the regulations made for the encouragement of the worsted manufactures, the importance of the trade has been acknowledged by the successive wisdom of the legislature; and many of the restrictive privileges probably were founded at the time, in the most judicious policy. Trade once established in a place never leaves it, but by compulsion; and if its celebrity be once obtained, it seldom fails to ensure for it an extensive circulation. For a long time the master manufacturers were men of moderate capital, their concerns were limited, and credit small. Many of them resided in the villages, and brought their articles to the city for sale: indeed most of them disposed of their goods to factors, who supplied the merchants. The trade was then principally confined to home consumption, and the act of 1721 which prohibited the general wearing of *cottons*, and the order for the court mourning to consist of *Norwich crapes*, during the administration of Sir Robert Walpole; combine to prove, that the trade did not depend so much on foreign demand, as upon internal orders.

About forty years ago the tide of fashion running strongly in favor of the light and elegant manufactures of India, excited in the genius of Britain a spirit of imitation. The stuff trade had been long on the decline, through the prevalence of Manchester cottons; and from the facility and cheapness with which these were manufactured by the wonderful inventions of Arkwright and other ingenious mechanics, the destruction of the home trade was almost completed. The merchants and manufacturers were roused to extraordinary exertions, and the channels of trade were soon entirely changed. They improved and extended their continental connections, their travellers were seen in every kingdom of

of Europe, and the great annual marts of Frankfort, Leipsic, and Salerno were crowded with purchasers for Norwich goods. By these means, though excluded from their usual share of the internal trade, they amply compensated that loss. The tradesmen now sent their sons to be educated in Germany, Italy, and Spain, that by learning the languages and manners of the different people, they might enlarge their views, and strengthen their foreign relations. The taste of every country, and the habits of every clime were consulted, from the frozen north to the sultry south. Hence Norwich and the country for twenty miles round it, quickly became crowded with looms. Though the distaff, and the spinning wheel were incessantly plied through the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and in the former only, it is computed fifty thousand tods of wool were annually spun; yet the produce was inadequate to the demand. It became necessary to import *yarn* as well as wool; and of the importation of bay yarn from Ireland only, more was at that period consumed here, than had been a few years before imported into the whole kingdom. Exclusive of this, great quantities of yarn were purchased from the neighbouring counties; and Scotland also was induced to contribute a share. At that proud meridian of its prosperity, the trade, from the capriciousness of fashion, began to shew some symptoms of decay; and the disastrous war breaking out, abridged its communications, dissolved its continental connections, annihilated all incentives to speculation, depressed the spirit of enterprise, and paralyzed the hands of industry.

If impartial accounts could be obtained of the state of Norwich manufactures, at different periods, since the commencement of the trade to the present time; they would be highly interesting; as tending to unfold a variety of circumstances, elucidatory of an important part of our commercial history. But such an account, drawn up from authentic documents, is rather to be desired than expected. An author *, who published a description of

* Tour through the island of Great Britain, Vol. I. Letter I. p. 92.

of the city in the year 1724, gives a statement, which he says was furnished him by a master manufacturer, whereby it appears, that 120,000 persons were then employed in the woollen, worsted, and silk manufactures. Not that the whole of this number resided in the city; but they were employed in some branch of the trade, and their labors were conducive to the productions of Norwich.

Arthur Young* considered the interval between the years 1743 and 1763, and downward, till the dispute between the mother country and her colonies became serious, to have been a flourishing era. The number of looms was then found to be 12,000, and the general idea is, that each loom, with its attendant preparations, produces work to the value of one hundred pounds per annum. For ascertaining the proportion between the original materials, and the labor employed, he observes the manufacturer has an easy method. The *average* value of a piece of stuff is fifty shillings, which weighing six pounds, at ten pence per pound, is five shillings; making the raw material a tenth part of the manufactured article.—Thus,

| | |
|---|---|
| Total value..... | 1,200,000 |
| A tenth part..... | 120,000 |
| | £ 1,080,000 |

To discover how many hands were employed to earn this million sterling and upwards annually for the public, one datum is given. In Norwich each loom is allowed to employ the labor of six persons: then, twelve thousand, the number of looms, multiplied by six, gives seventy-two thousand, for the number of persons.

At present the returns will be found very different; the merchants being shut out of most of the foreign markets by war, and from our own, by fashion; the estimate must consequently be

* Farmer's Tour in the East of England.

be placed much lower. Supposing, however, the sum of manufactured articles to be 800,000l. the price of labor bestowed upon them will be 685,000l. whilst the value of the raw material, dying stuff, oil, soap, and coals will be only 115,000l. Compared with this, what are the national advantages of the sale of 800,000l. worth of coffee or sugar in foreign markets *? especially when it is considered how trifling, comparatively, is the raw material, and how much its value is increased by labor; how much capital it sets afloat upon lucrative adventure, and to what numbers of poor it gives the means of existence, by furnishing them with useful and substantial employ.

The staple articles of this manufacture, at present, are bombazines, worsted damasks, flowered satins, and fine camblets: for the latter the East India company have given annually large orders, which has afforded some relief during the torpor of the trade to Italy and Spain. To these articles have been recently added the manufacturing of cottons, shawls, and some other fancy goods, adapted both for furniture and dress; which, for elegance, at present surpasses any thing of the kind made in England. The making of cotton thread-lace has also been introduced; and the trade in linen, called *Suffolk hempen*, is in a flourishing state. The *staple* manufacture of Norwich furnishes about fifty distinct occupations, reckoning from the shearer, who procures the fleece, to the mariner, who ships the bale goods; and when trade is very brisk it employs one hundred thousand persons. The Lincolnshire and Leicestershire wools are chiefly used, while those of Norfolk † are mostly sent for the use of the Yorkshire clothiers. "The earnings of the manufacturers are various. Dyers and hot-pressers about 15s. a week, combers about 12s.; some of the best weavers from 14s. to a guinea; weavers in general, on an average, not



* See an excellent essay on this subject in the Monthly Magazine for the month of December 1798, from which several remarks contained in this account have been extracted.

† Norfolk Tour, p. 99.

more than 6s.; but then many women can earn as much; and children, by spinning, pipe-filling, and tyre-drawing, earn from 9d. to 2s. 6d. per week*."

A few years since the trade gave employment to more than five hundred combers, and furnished spinning for most of the women and children of this, and the adjoining county. But the machines, which have long been used in Yorkshire for preparing yarn, have been lately introduced here, whereby the processes of manual combing and spinning are nearly superseded. These prepare yarn of a finer and more even quality than can be produced in the common way; and it is afforded in the market at a lower price.

## Of the Churches, Religious Houses, and other Ecclesiastical Subjects.

At an early period Norwich was distinguished for its numerous monastic structures. In the reign of Edward the Confessor it is stated to have contained twenty-five parochial churches, and in the time of the Conqueror, forty-three chapels were in the patronage of the burgesses, most of which were afterwards made parochial. During the reign of Edward the third, there were fifty-eight parish churches and chapels within the walls. Besides these, there was the cathedral; a monastic college and chapels in the precincts; also four houses of friars and a chapel to each; a conventual church, four hospitals, with their chapels, &c. In addition to which here were several cells, anchorages, and other small religious foundations; amounting in the whole to seventy-six places of christian public worship. At the same time here was a Jewish synagogue. Respecting the histories, foundations, and establishments of all of these, it will be impossible to enter into particulars in the present work. Of the cathedral church, and two or three other principal ecclesiastical structures, it will, however, be necessary to give some account.

### Cathedral.

* Norfolk Tour, p. 99.

CATHEDRAL.—Herbert de Losinga established the See at Norwich in the year 1094, and laid the foundation stone of the Cathedral in the year 1096. Hubert de Rhya laid the second, when several of the nobility laid others, and contributed various donations towards the structure. It has been said, that "the first building was chiefly composed of wood*;" but this is not very probable, as there can be no doubt that parts of it still remain. How much was absolutely completed by Herbert is not clearly defined; though it is stated that the choir, with its ailes, also the transept and tower, were erected by him. To this, Eborard, his successor in the see, added the nave, with its two ailes, extending from the anti-choir or rood-loft to the west end. Thus it stood, though not fitted up, till 1171, when it was damaged by fire. John of Oxford, the fourth bishop, repaired this injury, supplied the church with proper vestments, and decorated it with ornaments, about the year 1197. Walter de Suffield, the tenth bishop, made another addition, by erecting the Virgin Chapel at the east end, which has since been demolished. For this and other acts of munificent piety, he was reputed a saint, and after his death miracles were reported to have been performed at his tomb. To his relics was attributed the following fact. During an insurrection between the citizens and the monks, A. D. 1272, in which the cathedral was much injured by fire, this chapel escaped the fury of the flames. The citizens were fined, as a punishment, 3000 marks, with which sum and the liberal donations of the great, the church was repaired, &c. A. D. 1278. Soon afterwards, the *tower*, or steeple, appearing to have been materially injured by the fire, it was taken down, and another erected at the sole expense of bishop Ralph de Walpole. The old chapter-house was built by the same bounteous prelate, who also erected that part of the *Cloister* which extends from the entrance of the chapter-house to the grand door-way into the church. Three more arches, on the same side, were executed by the clerk of the works, *Richard de Uppehall*. The remaining five arches, and



* Norfolk Tour, p. 125.

the south side of the cloister to the arch, where the *espousals* was carved, were erected by Bishop Salmon, with the assistance of the monks; who, on this occasion, suppressed the office of *Pittancer*, and expended on the work the *pittances* of the convent. The north side, towards the church, was built by Henry De Well, who gave 210 marks himself, and obtained several donations, to carry on the work. He was also allowed a portion of the *pittance-money*. The west side, from the carving of the espousals, the highly ornamented entrance towards the refectory, the lavatories, and the door-way into the pilgrims' hall, were built by Jeffery Simonds, the then rector of St. Mary in the Marsh. The part extending from the pilgrims' hall door-way, to the entrance into the church inclusive, was the work of Bishop Wakeryng, who, in his life time, erected the new *chapter-house*, which was afterwards destroyed in the civil wars. The rest was successively executed by the several families of Morley, Shelton, Scales, Erpingham, Gourney, Mowbray, Thorpe, Savage, &c. whose arms, and cognizances, were to be seen emblazoned in the windows before the fine stained glass was demolished. Towards this work Walter de Burney, citizen of Norwich, had previously made a donation of 400l. Thus, A. D. 1430, in the one hundred and thirty-third year from its commencement, was finished this spacious, elegant, and justly celebrated cloister *, in the presidency of Bishop Alnwyck, by whose executors the west end of the cathedral was rebuilt.

In 1361, a violent hurricane blew down the upper part of the steeple, and did much injury to the choir. For the reparation of this damage, Bishop Percy gave 400l. out of his own purse, and obtained an aid of ninepence in the pound from all his clergy. At that time the present spire was built. In the year 1463, the church was much damaged by lightning, which led to its beautification, during the repairs and alterations it underwent in the time

* It is considered a most valuable specimen of this kind of building, and is called by Browne, "the fairest in England." See his Posthumous Works.

time of Bishop Lyhart, by whose generosity, and that of his powerful coadjutors, many ornamental additions were made. At this period the cathedral was paved, the stone rood-loft now remaining built, and an elegant tomb over the ashes of the founder erected. The latter was demolished in the grand rebellion. During Lyhart's prelacy the noble stone-roof of the nave was constructed, and adorned with sculptures representative of various stories from the Old Testament. His successor, Bishop Goldwell, following the worthy example, beautified the tower, erected a stone-roof over the choir, of similar workmanship to that of the nave, with sculptured stories from the New Testament. He also fitted up the choir, with the collateral chapels, and covered the whole vaulting with lead. In 1509 the ailes of the transepts, being injured by fire, were repaired by Bishop Nix, and covered with a roofing of stone, similar to the other parts of the church, by which the whole roof was completed in nearly an uniform manner. At the dissolution much curious work was destroyed in the cathedral, and several crucifixes, images, niches, tabernacles, and even paintings, were removed. In 1601 part of the spire was again struck down by lightning, but was quickly restored. Thus it continued till the rebellion in 1643, when that fanatical contempt for the venerable remains of the arts, which pervaded the majority of the people, under a pretence of extraordinary zeal for the honor of God, could only be exceeded by the folly with which it discarded the wisdom of antiquity; this, like other splendid structures, suffered numerous dilapidations. It was partially refitted at the restoration. During the time of Dean Bullock, the nave and ailes were new paved, the decayed stone-work repaired, and the whole inside fitted up in a careful manner. The cathedral was repaired and *beautified*, on an extensive scale, by the dean and chapter, in the year 1763; and again, at their expence, in 1807.

## Plan, Dimensions, Divisions, Architecture, &c. of the Cathedral.

The architecture of this noble pile of building is chiefly of that style called Norman, wherein the semicircular arch, and large short column, are the leading features. These are considerably varied in size, mouldings, and ornaments, in different parts of the structure. Though it will be impossible, in the present work, to define and describe all these varieties, and notice all the peculiarities displayed in this spacious building, yet it is my wish to give such account of it, as will enable the reader to understand its size, proportions, divisions, and prominent characteristics. The plan displays a *nave*, with *side ailes*; a *transept*, a *choir* with semicular east end, and an *aile* surrounding it. On the north-east side of the latter is a place called the *confesssional*, from which is a small aperture communicating with the great altar. Attached to, but projecting from, this aile, near the east end, is a small *chapel*, dedicated to *Jesus*, and on the opposite side, at the south-east angle of the church, is another, called *St. Luke's chapel*. West of this is a square building, projecting from the aile, now used as the *consistory court*. Between this and the transept is *Heydon's chapel*, and the old *chapter-house*. Abutting to the south transept are the *precincts-gaol* or *dungeon*, and St. Edmund's, or the *Prior's chapel*. West of these, and attaching to the south side of the nave, are the *Cloisters*. Such are the component parts of the cathedral, which joins to the bishop's palace on the north side, and to the deanry, &c. on the south. The following are given as the measurements:—Extreme *length* of the church, from east to west, 411 feet; and of the nave, from western door to transept, 140 feet. The extreme width of the latter is 191 feet; of nave, with ailes, 72 feet. The *Cloisters* form a square of 174 feet within the walls. They branch off from the southern transept, and inclose a square court or area:

eleven

eleven windows, or arched openings, are on the western side, twelve on the opposite side, eleven to the north, and the same number in the southern side. All these windows are divided into three lights, by two columns, and all are decorated with tracery; and it will be seen, on inspection, that the latter presents much variety and dissimilarity. At the south-west angle is a large *lavatory*. The roof is supported by groins, springing from clustered columns, and ornamented with very bold bosses at their points of intersection. The *door-way*, leading from the eastern aile of the cloisters to the nave, is very curious. It is in the pointed arch style, with four columns on each side, having corresponding archivolt mouldings, in front of which are seven canopied niches, with richly sculptured crockets, and each including a statue.

The *West Front* of the cathedral displays a large central compartment, fronting, and corresponding with the width and height of the nave; also two lateral divisions, corresponding with the side ailes. The elevation of the former shews a large central window, divided into three leading compartments in height, and the same number in width. These are again subdivided by small mullions, and the whole produces an highly ornamented effect. Beneath it is the grand entrance door-way, formed by a bold, deep pointed arch, having its spandrils and side fascia much enriched with mouldings, niches, pedestals, statues, and other sculptured decorations. Each of the lateral elevations is divided into three compartments, all of the semicircular or Norman style. At the bottom is a door-way opening to the aile, above which is a series of four windows close together, and separated by small columns, over which are three blank arches. At each extremity is a small staircase turret, surmounted by a modern discordant dome. The larger turrets, in the central division, are also disfigured by similar terminations, of that mongrel sort of architecture, which is of no style, order, or class. By describing the southern elevation, and east end, it is hoped the reader will be enabled to understand the exterior character of this spacious fabric. The nave and aile present five tiers, or stories, of win-

dows and arcades, though part of the lowermost is obscured by one side of the cloisters. Above this is a series of blank arches, or arcades, of the semicircular style, divided into fourteen compartments, by a flat buttress between each, and every division consists of six arches. In the next tier upwards, each compartment shews three semicircular arches, the central of which is opened and glazed, whilst the two latter are blank. Over this is a flatly pointed arch window with two mullions, in each division. This constitutes the elevation of the aile, which is unusually lofty and narrow. Above this is a series of arches to the upper part of the nave, displaying, in each compartment, a pointed arch window in the middle, with a semicircular moulding over it, and two lateral blank arches. The sides and front of the transept nearly correspond in the number, and style of arches, with the division just described. At the intersection of this transept, with the nave and choir, rises a lofty *tower*, surmounted by a *spire*, the whole height of which is 315 feet. The former exhibits four stories, besides that of the battlements; and each is covered with arcades, columns, and tracery-mouldings, of very varied and curious workmanship. It is an interesting specimen of the Norman style of architecture, exemplifying it at that period, when the semicircular and intersecting arches, with tall light columns, were prevalent, and just before the pointed arch was generally adopted. The battlements, and pinnacles at the angles, are of a later style, as is the octangular spire, which has bold crockets attached to, and running up the ribs at each angle. In the exterior of the choir and its ailes, a very dissimilar style of architecture is exhibited; for the former has large, lofty windows, with pointed arches, ornamented with mullions and tracery, whilst the latter displays several windows with square heads, divided by three mullions and tracery. These windows are curious and rare examples of form. Bold buttresses project from the upper part of the choir, across and over the aile *.

Of

* A large south-west view of this cathedral has been drawn, engraved, and published, by Mr. Buckler, who in this, as in several other prints,

Of the *interior* it must suffice to remark, that it is grand and solemn in the general effect; that the piers, columns, arches, and mouldings, are in a bold and substantial style. It is, however, much to be regretted by every architect, antiquary, and man of taste, that the modern fittings up of the choir, pewing in the aile, encumbered state of the transepts, &c. tend to disfigure the building, and destroy all harmony, propriety, character, and beauty. The present choir, or part appropriated for cathedral service, is made to extend from the semicircular east end across the transept, and to the third column in the nave. This space is nearly inclosed with boarded and painted partitions, filling up the arches, and shutting out the sight from all general and comprehensive views of the building.

Tombs, &c. In comparing the records of the dead with sepulchral memorials, the mind is filled with reflection on the vanity of life, and the futility of all attempts to perpetuate the memory of man by the frail emblems executed by art, raised at the expence of affectionate friends. If honour survives man on earth, it must be in the memory of others; and a meritorious life can be only effectually recorded in mental recollection. "The storied urn, or animated bust; the boast of heraldry, or pomp of power," cannot restrain the fleeting breath of fame, nor fix a lasting trophy over the tomb. The designating sculptures and representative emblems are removed, like the mortals for whom they were executed, to make room for others; and the perpetual substitution strongly reminds the observer of the rapid succession of ages, and the lapse of time. Even *brass*, adopted from the Roman school as a means of immortalizing the name and laudable deeds of man, must own its feeble power, in holding up a mirror to reflect the generations past.

Those persons who are desirous of being acquainted with the ancient

prints, has judiciously endeavoured to shew the greatest portion of the building; and to do this has, very properly, disregarded and omitted all the contiguous and irrelevant objects.

ancient monuments and inscriptions which have decorated the walls or pavements of this sacred edifice, must have recourse to several old writers; among others, Weever and Sir Thomas Brown may be consulted, as they have given descriptions and delineations of some tombs long destroyed, and of brasses now defaced or taken away. The tomb of *Bishop Herbert*, the founder, was destroyed in the time of the civil war; and a new altar-monument was erected to his memory by the dean and chapter, in the year 1682. It stands in the central part of the choir, inclosed with an iron palisade. This part of the church contains also the graves of most of the prelates, who have filled the see; but few interesting monuments now remain. There are mural stones to the memory of Bishops *Scambler* and *Overall.* Between the ninth and tenth pillars, reckoning from the west, was a chapel, now thrown open, where is an altar tomb, deprived of its brasses, under which was interred *Sir James Hobart*, who was attorney-general to King Henry the Seventh. Till the reformation this chapel was the chantry, belonging to the Hobart family. In *Jesus chapel* stands a tomb, removed from the chapel of the Virgin Mary, erected to the memory of *Sir Thomas Wyndham*, who was knighted by Sir Edward Howard, in the fourth year of King Henry the Eighth; he died at his seat of Felbrigge, October 22, 1521. Among other celebrated persons, whose place of sepulture is in this church, may be noticed, *John Heydon*, Esq. a great favourite of Edward the Fourth; *Sir Henry Heydon*, Knt. who built, at his own expence, *Salthouse Church; Sir William Boleyn*, Knt. great grandfather of Queen Elizabeth; *Sir Roger Bigod*, Knt. sewer to King Henry the First. Some writers have stated he was buried in the cloister walk, and a niche is still to be seen there, in which was the figure of a knight in a praying posture; *Sir Walter de Berney*, Calthorp, Bosvile, Baconthorpe, &c. &c.

In the chapel called our *Lady the less*, is an arched mural monument to *Sir William Beauchamp*, the founder, who lived in the

the reigns of Edward the First, and Edward the Second. In the south aile, on a flat stone, is this inscription, in black letter;

"Under this ston
Lys *John Knapton*,
Who died inst,
The XXVIII of August
M.D.XC. and on
Of this church Peti-canon."

Of that folly, which inscribed sepulchral stones too often commemorates, an instance occurs in the south aile:—"Mary, daughter of Anthony Loveday, of Cheston in Suffolk, Gent. died Oct. 23, 1639;

Hast reader, and away for fear,
Lest thou dost turn idolater,
For here love, grace, and wit,
In a true virgin knot were knit."

The following is a specimen of that burlesque on genuine wit, called *punning*, which was carried to a great length in the seventeenth century. "*Henry Best*, Gent. principal register to the bishop of Norwich, died in 1629.

My time is shorte, the longer is my rest,
God calls them soonest, whom he loves *Best*."

As a contrast, compare the following, on a flat stone in St. Luke's Chapel. "*Ann Harsnet*, 1641;

Heaven has her charitie,
The good her fame,
The church her piety,
This stone her name."

THE BISHOP'S PALACE, on the north side of the collegiate precinct, is not the one built by the founder of the cathedral, though it stands upon the same site. The original building was pulled down, and a larger structure erected by Bishop Salmon, in

in the year 1318. This was afterwards repaired by Bishop Totington, and successively ornamented by Bishops Hart, Goldwell, and Parkhurst; whose arms were emblazoned in the different windows. In the rebellion it partook of the general injuries which were committed on ecclesiastical buildings by the fanatic spirit of the times. The greater part was let out in tenements, and the grand hall converted into a meeting-house; as appears from one Wayneford, a comber, being convicted before the mayor, for preaching blasphemy in it, in the year 1656. This room, which was 110 feet in length, and 60 feet wide, was at that time demolished, and the lead, with other materials, sold. At the restoration, Bishop Reynolds, with some difficulty and great expence made his palace habitable. Bishop Trimnel made considerable improvements, which were continued by Bishop Gooch: so that at present it is a neat and convenient residence. Formerly there was a covered way, vaulted with stone like the cloisters from the door of the north transept of the cathedral to the entrance of the grand hall.

*Episcopal* CHAPEL.—Jesus chapel, in the cathedral, was originally appropriated to the use of the prelate; but being found inconvenient, *Bishop Salmon* erected another near the palace. In this, which was one hundred and thirty feet long, by thirty broad, was buried the founder, and several other prelates. In 1619, it was licensed for the Walloon congregation. During the rebellion it was greatly injured, and its fine painted windows mutilated. Bishop Hall, in his treatise called "Hard Measure," states that Sheriff *Tofts*, and Alderman *Lindsey*, attended with many zealous followers, violently entered his chapel to search for reliques of idolatry, and superstitious pictures; and by whom he was informed, that the windows were full of offensive images, which must be demolished. On the pious prelate remonstrating that they were harmless, as being merely pictorial representations of ancient and worthy bishops, he received for answer, that they were *popes*, for every *diocesan bishop* was a pope. The bishop, however, prevailed so far as to preserve the bodies, allowing

allowing the heads to be taken off*. Had he foreseen what was to happen, he need not have been so tenacious, for soon afterwards the windows were broken in pieces, the lead roof sold, and the building so much demolished, that Bishop Reynolds was under the necessity of taking it down, and erecting, in the year 1662, the present chapel, which stands a little to the northward of the ancient site. In this, the founder and his successor, *Bishop Sparrow*, lie interred. The former is commemorated by a mural monument with his bust, and a latin inscription; and the latter has a similar memorial.

The PRIORY, built by Bishop Herbert Losinga, about the year 1101, for sixty monks of the Benedictine order, to officiate in the cathedral, stood on the south side of it, in what at present is called the lower close. On pulling down the workhouse, in the year 1804, to improve the entrance to the deanery, some ruins were discovered, supposed to have been remains of the refectory, and dormitory of that once celebrated monastery. The shafts of three massive clustered pillars, each nine feet long, are preserved, and exhibit interesting specimens of the architecture of the age. These appear to have been painted with a green colour, &c. and the sculptured capitals to have been gilt. The beautiful roof was nearly perfect, but few of the internal decorations could be traced with accuracy. Some specimens of Norman architecture were found, which corroborate the conjecture that it was the original building of Herbert Losinga†. At the general suppression, the revenues of the monastery were seized by the crown; but

* This accounts for a circumstance, which has been usually more noticed than satisfactorily explained: Why, in many religious edifices the effigies in the windows are destitute of faces? those parts, in many instances, being supplied with a piece of white glass.

† Three prints, representing a plan, with architectural elevation, and details of the building above alluded to, are published in the fifteenth volume of the Archaeologia, from very accurate drawings by Mr. J. A. Repton. A particular description is also given by the same ingenious architectural antiquary, with some additional "observations" by the Rev. W. Gibson, of Colney, near Norwich.

but the prior and monks being converted into a dean and prebendaries, the former were restored, and William Castleton, the last prior, became the first dean, A. D. 1538.

In that part of the precinct called the *Cowholm*, was a Chapel built prior to the time of Bishop Herbert, on the site of which was erected by that prelate, a Church, which he gave to the priory, called, from its situation, *St. Mary in the Marsh*. A small fragment of this was lately standing.

The CHARNEL-HOUSE, now appropriated to the *Free-school*, at the west end of the cathedral, was founded by *Bishop Salmon*, about the year 1316. He endowed it for four priests, one of whom was to be principal, or custos, to sing mass for his own soul, those of his father and mother, and of all his predecessors and successors in the see, for ever. It consisted of a chapel, with vault beneath, and proper offices for the residence of officiating priests. The upper part of the charnel was the chapel, and the under vault used for the purpose of a *charnel-house:* the sacrist of the cathedral having been permitted to bring all bones, in a proper state for removal, to deposit there, "to be reserved till the day of resurrection." The present portico was built by Bishop Lyhart. The under charnel house, an arched vault, supported by two rows of columns fourteen feet high, is now used for cellars; and the apartments designated for the chantry priests, converted into a dwelling house for the master of the school.

ST. ETHELBERT'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH was erected anterior to the cathedral, as appears by the parish being *partially* included within the precinct. It was burnt down in the grand civic insurrection in the year 1272. In lieu of which the citizens were compelled, among other restitutions, for the injuries they had committed, to build the present handsome *Gate*, with the chapel over it, dedicated to St. Ethelbert. It consists of a pointed arched gateway, having a handsome billetted moulding resting on circular columns, and on each side a crocketted pointed niche. Over these is a handsome fascia, decorated with five niches, which were formerly ornamented with statues, and surmounted with crocketted pediments; the central figure only now remains.

This

This part is used as the bishop's registrary. Exclusive of this, there were formerly four other gates belonging to the precinct. One now demolished led into St. Vedast-lane; another leads to St. Giles's hospital; a third opens into St. Martin's plain; and a fourth faces the western end of the cathedral. The latter is called *Erpingham's Gate*, from having been built by Sir Thomas Erpingham, Knt. as a penance for his being an abettor of Lollardism, or favourer of Wickliffe.

This is a peculiarly elegant specimen of the architecture and sculpture of the time. It serves also as a memorial of religious customs. Its elevation displays a lofty pointed arch, which is enriched with columns, mouldings, and numerous small statues, in canopied niches. The spandrils are also highly decorated with tracery mouldings, inclosing shields, &c. and the whole is inclosed in a sort of square frame, with semi-octagonal buttresses. Each of these is divided into four compartments, all of which are covered with statues, niches, shields, pedestals, &c. and on numerous scrolls is the word *Pœna*. Over the centre arch is a pediment, which has a fine canopied niche in the middle, with a statue of Sir Thomas Erpingham *, who is represented in armour, kneeling, having his hands clasped in the act of praying. On the north corner, is the effigy of a *secular* priest with his scholar, said to be emblematic of the industry of the seculars; and on the opposite side, that of a monk in an idle posture, representative of the state of those priests who were dignified with the name of *regulars*.

Of

* The name of this distinguished knight does not appear in the popular histories of England. To his prowess and fame, the French chroniclers have done ample justice. The brilliancy and almost the fate of the battle of Agincourt, is ascribed by Monstrelet and Froissart to the ability of Sir Thomas Erpingham, in his admirable disposition of the archers, supported by the men at arms. A ludicrous story of this knight and his lady, with friars John and Richard, is copied in Blomefield's History of Norfolk, from Heywood's *Various History of Women*. Coleman, jun. has versified it in his usually witty and epigrammatical style; and published it, with other humorous poems, in a small volume, entitled, "Broad Grins."

Of the many *religious houses*, which once evinced the abundant devotion and charity of the place, few vestiges now remain. The materials with which they were erected, and the revenues by which they were supported, have been long appropriated to other uses. By whom they were founded, and by whom suppressed; who were their distinguished tenants, and in what scenes the latter were once occupied, remains upon record.

The site of the *White Friars* is nearly all built upon, and the hall is converted into a meeting-house, used by a congregation of baptists, who have a small burial-place on the south side; and the remainder of the cloister now forms a cellar to a public-house. Some part of the *College of St. Mary in the Fields* is yet standing, and in the windows of the great hall are the arms of several noble families; as Cornwallis, Southwell, and Hobart; in which latter family the property is now vested. The site of the *Priory* of *St. Leonard's*, built by Bishop Herbert, containing fourteen acres, is walled in, and part of the ruinated gate-house stands. Of the monastery of *black* or *preaching friars*, more remains perhaps than of any friary in the kingdom. The cloister, including a place of sepulture, is on the north side of the church. The conventual kitchen in 1625, was appointed as a place of industry for the poor, since which time, various appropriations have been successively made. The *Church*, a most noble and beautiful pile, is still integral, except the steeple, which fell down, November the 6th, 1712. But as this has long been desecrated, it will be hereafter described under its present appellation of *St. Andrew's Hall.*

Among the numerous churches in this city, few, after the cathedral, are deserving particular attention, as architectural objects. The churches are, St. Peter's Hungate, St. Simon and St. Jude's, St. George's in Tombland, St. Martin's in the Plain, St. Edmund's, St. James's, St. Paul's, St. Saviour's, St. Clement's, St. George's, St. Augustine's, St. Martin's, St. Mary's, St. Michael's, St. Peter's Mancroft, St. Giles's, St. Bennet's, St. Swithin's, St. Margaret's, St. Lawrence's, St. Gregory's, St. John the Baptist's, Madder Market;

Market, St. Andrew's, St. Michael's at Plea, St. Peter's Southgate, St. Ethelred's, St. Julian's, St. Peter's per Mountergate, St. Mary's the Less, St. John's Timberhill, All Saints', St. Michael's at Thorn, St. John the Baptist's and Holy Sepulchre, St. Stephen the Proto-martyr's, and the Dutch church.

ST. JULIAN'S CHURCH, founded anterior to the Conquest, was given by King Stephen to the nunnery of Carhow. It exhibits some specimens of Saxon architecture.

The church of ST. PETER MANCROFT, is a large, regular, handsome building; and next to the cathedral, is distinguished for its superiority in size and architecture to any of the sacred structures in this city. It stands on an elevated spot at the south-west corner of the Market-place. Blomefield states, that it was finished and consecrated in the year 1455. It consists of a square tower at the west end, one hundred feet in height, and a body, composed of a nave, choir, and chancel, measuring two hundred and twelve feet in length, by seventy in width. On the north and south sides are entrance porches. The altar is ornamented with a painting representing the deliverance of St. Peter from prison. It was executed by Catton, and given to the church by Alderman Starling, in the year 1768. Among the sepulchral monuments, here is one raised to the memory of Sir THOMAS BROWNE, who died October 19, 1682, aged 77 years.

On a brass plate, in the south aile, are the following lines:—

" Here RICHARD ANGUISH sleepes, for whom alyve
Norwich and Cambridge latlie seem'd to strive;
Both called him son, as seemed well they might,
Both challenged in his lyfe an equall right:
Norwich gave birth, and taught him well to speake,
The mother English, Latine phrase, and Greeke
Cambridge with arts adorned his ripening age,
Degrees and judgement in the sacred page;
Yet Norwich gains the 'vantage of the strife,
Whiles there he ended, where begann his life."

Sept. XXIIII. A°. Dni 1616.

The CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE stands upon the spot, which at a remote period was the quay for landing all fish brought to the city. At that time the tithes of the fishery must have been considerable; for Alfric, Bishop of East-Anglia, in the year 1038, granted the *quay, staithe,* and *hagh* to the Abbey of St. Edmund's Bury, on condition that the abbot would erect a church. The conventual chapter, on the fulfilment of the condition, obtained possession of the grant; and bestowed the rectory on one of their own body, reserving a *last of herrings* to be annually paid to the monastery. This quit-rent was compounded for in the reign of Henry the Third, by the cellarist of the convent, on the yearly payment of forty shillings. From this payment the rectory was released in the time of Henry the Seventh, on account of the smallness of the profits. The present regular and handsome Church was erected in the year 1472, at the expence of the Monastery of St. Edmund's Bury, aided by private benefactions. The tower is a bold square building, one hundred and twelve feet in height. Over the west door are several figures sculptured in stone. Previous to the civil war, the church was highly decorated with various altars, tabernacles, &c.; and the windows ornamented with painted glass. In 1643, the communion rails were broken down, the floor of the chancel taken up, and the stained glass defaced. In the parish register is this entry: "Laid out to Goodman *Perfett,* for the putting out of the superstitious inscriptions in the church windows, and the pulling down of crucifixes, 1s. 8d *." In this church are several monuments.

Norwich, like many other ancient places, is indebted to monachism for numerous *charitable institutions.* Among these is

The FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL which was originally founded by Bishop Salmon, A. D. 1325, and annexed to a small collegiate chantry. At the Dissolution, a provision was made for masters to be employed in the education of youth. For this purpose, in the first year of Edward the Sixth, the city, by the hospital charter, were obliged to appropriate a portion of their revenues.

The

* Blomefield's Essay, Vol. IV. p. 260.

The school was first kept in the fratry of the suppressed convent of the Friars Preachers. But afterwards the charnel-house was appropriated to that use; the houses of the chaplains being fitted up for the master, and the chapel appropriated for the school-room. The master has fifty pounds a-year, and the use of a house; and the usher has only thirty pounds a-year. It is further endowed with scholarships and fellowships belonging to Caius College, in the university of Cambridge.

The BOYS' HOSPITAL, situated in the parish of St. Edmund of Fishergate, owes its rise to *Thomas Anguish*, who was mayor of the city in the year 1611. By his will, bearing date the 22d of June, 1617, in the year 1628, it was incorporated under the title of "The *Childrens' Hospital* in the city of Norwich, of the foundation of King Charles." By the charter the trustees were allowed to purchase lands, and hold them in mortmain to a certain extent. By this establishment fourteen boys were to be fed, clothed, and educated; and by the laudable management of the corporation, and from additional benefactions, the revenues, in 1742, amounted to 448l. 16s. 8d. per annum; and the number of boys was augmented to thirty-six. Since that time both have been greatly increased.

The inscription over the door of the GIRLS' HOSPITAL, situated in Golden-Dog-lane, ascribes its first endowment to *Robert Baron*, who was mayor of this city in the year 1649. It provides for the boarding, clothing, educating, and teaching to work, a certain number of female children. This charity also does credit to the managers. Two, the first number, was, in 1742, increased to twenty-one; and, as the income has been augmented, more children have been regularly added. They are decently clothed in blue, and taught under a matron to read, spin, sew, &c. so as to prepare them for useful services.

*St. Giles's*, commonly called the OLD MENS' HOSPITAL, was founded by Bishop Suffield, A. D. 1249. It stands on the north-east side of the cathedral, and at present consists of the

hospital-church, which has a square tower at the south-west corner. The choir is converted into lodgings for the women, and part of the nave and ailes for the men; the remaining part being still used for divine worship. By this charity, provision is made for fifty aged men, and also for fifty aged women, who are under the government of a master, elected by the corporation. In a charter of incorporation this hospital is called *God's House:* an ample list of its endowments may be found in Blomefield.

DOUGHTY'S HOSPITAL, situated in the parish of St. Saviour, was founded in pursuance of the will of William Doughty, gent. dated April 25, 1517. In this city are

Twelve *charily schools* supported by the interest arising from past donations, casual benefactions, and annual subscriptions. In these numbers of poor children are clothed, maintained, and educated.

Besides the preceding, here are many other public charities and benefactions; the enumeration of which would evince, that the spirit of beneficence is not fled, nor the hand of liberality closed. Out of those which do honor to modern times, may be selected the *Infirmary*, or hospital for the reception of the sick; and *Bedlam*, an asylum for lunatics.

The NORFOLK and NORWICH HOSPITAL, a large brick building, stands without St. Stephen's Gate, and was erected in 1772, by voluntary contribution, at the expence of 13,323l. 8s. 11d. A new wing, which was added in 1802, completed the original plan. For transacting the business of the house, the governors meet every Saturday; and on the same day the physicians and surgeons attend to admit in-patients; and every Tuesday, to prescribe to such as have been admitted out-patients. From a general abstract of the register it appears, that from the time of its being first opened for out-patients, July 11th, and for in-patients November the 7th, 1772, till the end of the year 1806, a period of thirty-four years, there have been on the admission list of out-patients 10,961; and of in-patients, 14,344; making the total number 25,305.

25,305. Out of which 16,427 have been discharged as cured, and 3,596 relieved.—The number of patients has been much increasing, as appears by the average statement.

BETHLEHEM HOSPITAL, or as usually called, *Bedlam*, was founded agreeably to the request of her husband, by the widow of the Rev. Samuel Chapman, rector of Thorpe by Norwich, in the year 1713, " for the convenient reception and habitation of lunaties, and not for natural born fools or idiots." For its endowment she settled by will all her estates on a body of trustees, who were to have the management of the house for ever. As many poor lunatics are kept here gratis as the funds will allow; the inhabitants of the city being first eligible, and after those, the trustees have a discretionary power of electing proper objects from any part of the county. They may also admit others, while there is room, whose friends will agree to pay the moderate allowance of four shillings and sixpence per week. A committee room, and other additions, were made to the building in the year 1807; and the funds are in a thriving state.

This city may be said to possess two civic theatres, or public places, designed for the meetings of the municipality: the GUILD-HALL, and *St. Andrew's Hall.* The former was originally a small thatched building, erected for the purpose of collecting the market-tolls; whence it took the name of the *Toll-booth.* In the time of Edward the Third, " a room built of *stud*, and covered with straw," was added; and it was then dignified with the appellation of the Guild-Hall, though it contained only sufficient sitting room for the first magistrate and six other persons.

In Henry the Fourth's time, A. D. 1407, a committee was formed, and a warrant granted them, to raise money and *press all carpenters, carters, and other workmen,* for the erection of a new Guild-Hall; and the same year the arched vaults, designed for the city prison, were raised; but the whole building was not completed till the year 1453, when the windows of the council-chamber were glazed. In these were various historic and emblematic paintings, allusive to the administration of justice; but

they have been miserably mutilated; two small windows at the east end, being all that remain perfect. This room is ornamented with portraits of King William and Queen Mary, of several eminent men of the country, also of various mayors, and benefactors to the city. The common-council chamber underwent a thorough repair in the year 1806. In this hall the assizes and quarter sessions for the city are held. It contains the mayor's office for transacting daily business, and all elections for mayors, aldermen, sheriffs, common-councilmen, and other officers; and all questions of moment relative to the city, are here determined.

St. Andrew's Hall, called in some instances the *New Hall*, is a noble fabric, and was formerly the conventual church of the Benedictine monastery of Black-friars. It was first began in the year 1415, by Sir Thomas Erpingham, Knt.; and finished by his son, Sir Robert Erpingham, who was rector of Bracon, and a monk of the fraternity. It consists of a nave and two ailes, which remain nearly perfect. Formerly it had a handsome steeple, which stood in the centre, between the nave and choir; but for want of repairing attention, it fell down, November 6, 1712. The ailes are separated from the nave by six slender, elegantly proportioned columns, which support the roof. They are half the breadth of the nave, and of the same length. The whole "is about one hundred and twenty feet long, and seventy wide," within the walls *." There are fourteen windows on a side in the upper tier, and six in the lower; two at the east end, and three at the west. These were formerly ornamented with painted glass, most of which has been demolished or removed. At the Dissolution, the city, through the interest of the Duke of Norfolk, obtained a grant of it from King Henry the Eighth, in the thirty-second year of his reign, "to make of the church a fair and large *hall* for the mayor and his brethren, with all the citizens, to repair

* A Companion to St. Andrew's Hall, p. 16.—"It is about fifty yards long, and thirty wide." Blomefield's Essay, Vol. IV. p. 344.—"A beautiful structure, forty-one yards in length, and twenty-three wide." Norfolk Tour, p. 109.

repair unto at a common assembly, &c." At this period the choir was converted into a chapel for the corporation and the several guilds, to hear mass performed morning and evening, and make their respective offerings. The ancient and numerous guild of St. George usually held their meetings at a stone, lately removed, which was placed in the south aile *, over the grave of Robert Bernard, Esq. This guild company, first associated A. D. 1385, and was a society of brethren and sisters, formed in honor of *St. George the Martyr*, for the purposes of charity and posthumous prayer. In 1416, they received a charter of incorporation. From that time the guild was in great repute; and it reckoned among its members some of the first persons of ability, rank, and fortune: and at one period their annual feasts were held in the grand hall of the bishop's palace. In 1550, they granted all their temporals to the hospital called *God's House*, in Holme-street. Subsequent to the Reformation, the spirit of the times being changed, it assumed more the form of a municipal, than of a religious society. In 1731, the company resigned their charters into the hands of the corporation; their plate and paraphernalia were sold, their debts paid, and their meetings entirely ceased. In the year 1544, the first mayor's feast was held in St. Andrew's Hall. A sumptuous dinner was given in the fourth year of Queen Elizabeth, to the Duke of Norfolk and numerous nobility and gentry; the portion of expence which came to the mayor's share amounted to 1l. 12s. 9d.!! The bill of fare exhibits a striking difference between the price of provisions at that period and the present†. In 1671, King Charles the Second, with his Queen, and many of the nobility, were entertained in the new hall. At several different periods, between the years 1650 and 1700, the mayor and corporation have proclaimed this



* In the corner of this aile is a carving in wood of St. George and the Dragon, with the arms of St. George painted beneath, executed by order of the company, 1686.

† Beef was then eightpence per stone, and flour sixpence per bushel.

hall "a public exchange, for the dispatch of business between merchants and tradesmen;" the last time of such proclamation being made, was in 1725. In 1774, this building underwent alterations, and received some additions. The old gateway and the wall next to Bridge-street were taken down, the present porch erected, and the room over it fitted up as the city library, in which the court of requests, for the recovery of small debts, is at present held.

In October 1796, the hall was opened as a corn exchange; for which purpose it is used every Saturday. It was new painted, and the pictures cleaned and varnished, in 1806. At the east end is a full-length portrait of *Queen Anne*, and another, of her consort, *Prince George of Denmark*. Numerous other portraits, of the nobility and gentry, who have contributed to the welfare of the county, or of persons who have filled the public offices of the city with dignity and approbation, painted by different artists, decorate the walls. The names of the painters are Heins, Martin, Gainsborough, Lawrence, Opie, Hoppner, Smith, Bardwell, Stoppelaer, Adolphe, Williams, Catton, and Beechey. In the centre, over the entrance into what was the Dutch Church, is an admirable portrait of that distinguished ornament of his country, the immortal Nelson, with this inscription: "This best likeness of the illustrious hero, and the last for which he ever sat, was painted after his return from the battle of the Nile, in the year 1801, by Sir William Beechey; and confers additional lustre on the professional abilities of that eminent artist." At the lower end of the hall, over the large central window, is displayed, in a festoon form, the tri-coloured flag of France. It is the ensign of the French ship La Genereux, of 74 guns, which was captured in the Mediterranean, in the year 1800, by Sir Edward Berry.

The assizes for the city were formerly held in this hall; but have for some years past been removed to the Guild Hall, in the Market-place.

*Miscellaneous Buildings, &c.*—Fuller, in his quaint manner, observes, alluding to the buildings being at his time for the most part

part thatched, "Norwich is like a great volume with a bad cover, having, at best, but parchment walls about it." And adds a wish, in his Worthies of England, that "the *straw* of the city may, in due time, advance into *tyle*; and thereby the houses be better secured against the merciless element of fire, whose furious raging is seldom bounded, unless by the want of fuel to feed on." Could the author have visited Norwich in the year 1808, he might have spared the remark. Still, however, there are many ancient houses and some of those ragged buildings, which afford picturesque subjects for the pencil of the artist, and of historic inquiry to the antiquary and topographer.

*The Tower in the Hospital Meadow*, called the Dungeon, or Cow-Tower; is a circular building, about fifty-two feet in height, and twenty-four feet diameter, with a round spiral staircase reaching to the top. It is situated at the eastern extremity of the city, on the western bank of the Wensum, where the stream forms a considerable angle. There can be little doubt, but it was originally an advanced post and watch tower to the castle, for the defence of the river pass. Blomefield thinks it was built "in order to levy the tolls then belonging to the prior and church;" and says it was used as a prison for the jurisdiction of the cathedral *. The present tower is stated to have been built in the year 1390, at the expence of the city.

The Dukes of Norfolk formerly had a magnificent *palace* in this city. It was made a ducal residence in the time of Henry the Eighth; but pulled down in the year 1602, when a more stately pile was erected on its site, by Henry, Duke of Norfolk. This was soon afterwards defaced by his grandson, out of umbrage taken at the conduct of the mayor, who refused the Duke's company of *Comedians* to enter the city with trumpets, &c. From that time it was entirely neglected: part of the site was used as a common stathe, and the remaining buildings hired of the Duke for the city workhouse; but since the poor-house, in St. Andrew's parish,

* Essay, &c. Vol. IV. p. 402.

rish, was enlarged, the whole site has been sold, and built on by different proprietors. Fuller says this palace was the largest he had ever seen out of London. Among its various accommodations for amusement, were, a theatre, tennis-court, and covered bowling alley. The latter was the first of the kind in England: and when Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, was accused of aspiring to the throne of Scotland, by his intended marriage with Mary, Queen of Scots, he protested to Elizabeth, that when in his *bowling-alley* at Norwich, he considered himself equal to a king of Scotland.

On the north side of great Newgate, stands SURREY HOUSE, a curious specimen of domestic architecture; in the windows of which were emblazoned, on glass, many armorial bearings.

Opposite to St. James's church is an old house, called *Fastolff's Palace*, which is said to have been built by the celebrated Sir John Fastolff, of Caistor; and termed, in ancient records, his *place*, or city house.

Among the modern institutions of the city, is one entitled to particular notice, as serving to shew that the fine arts, and consequently taste and elegance, are at once appreciated and encouraged so far from the metropolis. This is a "*Society of Artists*," the members of which have made an annual public exhibition of their pictures for the last three or four years. Such establishments must be beneficial to the moral and intellectual state of society, and that city or town, which supports or encourages them, will advance its dignity and fame. If they were more prevalent, we should see the conveniences and comforts of life further extended: and, instead of that ugliness and deformity which disgrace many modern alterations, miscalled *improvements*, beauty, consistency, and propriety, would be introduced.

EMINENT NATIVES OF NORWICH.—To sketch the actions and characters of those persons who were born in this city, and have distinguished themselves by their talents, or the application of them, for the benefit of their country, would furnish sufficient

sufficient materials for an interesting volume of local biography; yet to pass over so important a topic, in the description of a place, would be deemed, by many persons, a censurable omission. Brief particulars, therefore, are here given of a few eminent men, who, by their learning, &c. have reflected dignity on the place of their birth.

WILLIAM BATEMAN, better known in records by the name of *William de Norwico*, from the place of his birth, was son of William Bateman, who served the office of bailiff, and in 1326, represented the city in parliament. The son received the rudiments of his education among the monks at Norwich, and was afterwards removed to the University of Cambridge, where he studied the civil law, and took the degree of doctor in that faculty. He was early noticed for his genius and literary acquirements, and was collated to the archdeaconry of Norwich in the year 1328. Bishop Ayremine, who had given him this preferment, recommended him to Rome, where, by his exemplary conduct, he so distinguished himself as to be successively appointed to several offices of high trust and honor; as chaplain to the pope, auditor of his palace, dean of Lincoln, and papal nuncio, to mediate for peace between Edward the Third and the King of France. On the death of Anthony de Beck, the convent of Norwich unanimously elected him to fill the see. He was consecrated by Clement the Sixth, at Rome, A. D. 1344. Having resided there some time as King Edward's plenipotentiary, for the purpose of treating with the ambassadors of Philip de Valois, the French king; on the conclusion of the treaty he returned to England, and was honourably received, on his arrival at the palace, A. D. 1345. He was endued with a high spirit, and was very tenacious of the perquisites and privileges of the see. Robert de Morley, having killed some of the bishop's deer, and otherwise infringed upon his manors, fell under the lash of the consistorial court; and notwithstanding the king sent prohibitory letters, accompanied by menaces, to stay the proceedings, the powerful baron felt the weight of the prelate's resentment. He was openly excommunicated, and,

to make his peace, was constrained to do public penance, by walking through the principal streets of the city, bare-headed and bare-footed, bearing a wax light in his hand of six pounds weight. When arrived at the cathedral, he was compelled to kneel before the bishop, solicit his pardon, and make an ample offering upon the high altar for his offence. This bishop founded and endowed, in 1347, Trinity Hall, in Cambridge, for the study of civil and canon law, and induced Sir Edmund de Gonvile to found and endow Gonvile and Caius College, in the same University. In the year 1354, being sent by King Edward the Third, with Henry, Duke of Lancaster, to acquaint the pope with the nature of the king's claim to the crown of France, and his determination to support it by force of arms, he died at Avignon, a city of Provence, then the residence of the Pope; and was buried in the cathedral of that place, A. D. 1354.

MATHEW PARKER, a pious and learned divine, and Archbishop of Canterbury, in the time of Queen Elizabeth, was born in the parish of St. Saviour, in this city, August 6th, 1504. Early deprived of his father, the charge of education devolved on his mother, who sent him to the grammar-school, whence, to complete his studies, he was removed to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. There he made a rapid progress in almost every kind of learning, and was successively graduated in arts and divinity. As a preacher, he eminently distinguished himself, was invited to court, and appointed chaplain to Queen Ann Boleyn, through whose interest he obtained several preferments; but had the painful office assigned him of seeing his royal friend and patroness brought to the scaffold. At that parting scene he received her last instructions respecting the education of the Princess Elizabeth, with a solemn injunction "to see that she was brought up in the true faith, and fear of God." After this, in the year 1544, he was chosen warden of his own college; and, in the following year, made vice-chancellor of the University. Having been well disposed to the changes which had taken place in the doctrines and discipline of the English church, he was considered, by the wise regency, during

during the minority of Edward the Sixth, a proper person to aid by his councils, and promote by his example, the great work of reformation. He was first appointed king's chaplain, and then preferred, in 1552, to the deanery of Lincoln. But, on the accession of Queen Mary, he was deprived of his honors and emoluments, and forced to fly from his country, to avert the rage of his relentless persecutors. In the succeeding reign his sufferings were, in some measure, compensated, and his fidelity in the cause of reformation rewarded, by his appointment to a station of the highest dignity, emolument, and responsibility. His claims upon government were of a prominent kind; his merits were generally acknowledged, and the dearth of proper persons to fill the great spiritual offices, gave to both qualifications an imperious support. Though the queen had a latent prejudice to matrimony, and was decidedly favorable to celibacy in the clergy, yet she nominated Parker, who was a married man, to the See of Canterbury. His character combined two traits, which mutually adorn each other—learning and religion. He was a strict disciplinarian, and, on that account, he incurred the inveterate hatred of the Earl of Leicester. In this respect, Fuller facetiously puns upon his name: "He was a *parker* indeed, careful to keep the fences, and shut the gates of *discipline* against all such *night-stealers*, (Anabaptists and other sectaries,) as would invade the same. No wonder then, if the tongues and pens of many were whetted against him, whose complaints are beheld by discreet men, like the exclamations of *truantly scholars* against their *masters'* severity, correcting them for their faults*." In his household he was hospitable and courteous, and having laid out large sums upon the repair of his palace, where he liberally entertained several ejected bishops and ministers; he was charged, by the puritan party, as "too *pontifical* in his buildings, and too lavish in his feastings." Of his charity, the numerous donations while he lived, and the benefactions he left by will, bear ample testimony.

* Fuller's Church History of Brit. Cent. XVI. p. 108.

testimony. Ever anxious for the proper instruction of the churches, he caused the sees and livings to be filled with pious and learned men, and to prevent the spread of popery, he had the Universities placed under strict regulations; to both which learned seminaries he was a warm and zealous patron. The valuable manuscripts which he collected, after they had been dispersed at the dissolution of the monasteries, he gave to the library of the college in which he had received his education, where they are now deposited. He was a lover and promoter of antiquarian researches; and, by his conduct, proved the injustice of a remark, illiberally made on antiquaries, "that generally they are either superstitious or supercilious;" for, with profound skill, he united soundness of doctrine, and suavity of manners. Posterity are indebted to his pen for that excellent book, called "*Antiquitates Britannicæ,*" a work in which he hath laid down those historical documents, by which the errors of the Romish church may be for ever satisfactorily refuted, upon its own ground of *tantamount antiquity*. No person of that period was better versed in British and Anglo-Saxon antiquities, and many valuable records owe to him their preservation. Where copies were few, he caused them to be printed, as, Asser's Life of Alfred, the Histories of Mathew Paris, Mathew Florilegus, Thomas Walsingham, &c. He also published a Defence of Marriage in the Clergy. He caused a translation of the Scriptures to be made from the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts; the one before in use being an imperfect representation of their meaning; this, called the Bishop's Bible, continued to be used till the time of King James the First, when the present revised translation was made *.

JOHN KAYE, better known by his latinized name of *Caius*, an eminent physician in the reigns of Queens Mary and Elizabeth, was born at Norwich, in the year 1510. Fuller supposes he was of

* For some additional particulars respecting this prelate, see Beauties of England, &c. Vol. VIII. p. 814.

of a Yorkshire family, and a relation of a Thomas Key, of Oxford, who wrote a treatise on the ancient foundation of that University. This work was answered, in a masterly style of reasoning, by John Kaye, in which the highest antiquity is asserted, and attempted to be maintained for the University of Cambridge *. Signing himself *Londinensis* to this treatise, as then a resident in the metropolis, has induced some persons to conclude he was a native of London. Blomefield has however decided, that Norwich may justly claim this eminent luminary, and place among her sons, this favourite of Æsculapius. He received his education at Gonvile Hall, in Cambridge, which, by his liberality, was subsequently erected into a college, and amply endowed, under the name of *Gonvile and Caius College.* To perfect his studies, according to the fashion of the times, he travelled into Italy, and matriculated in the University of Padua, where he studied under the celebrated John Baptist Montanno. While abroad he wrote many books, and formed a numerous and valuable literary acquaintance, among whom was the famous Conradus Gesner. Returning to England, Dr. Caius practised his art in Norwich with great reputation. In the year 1557, when that destructive epidemical disease, called *the sweating sickness,* spread its ravages over the whole kingdom, he treated it with unexampled success; and generously communicated his mode of practise to other countries in a treatise he wrote in Latin, called "De Ephemera Britannica." Then considered the most able practitioner of medicine in the realm, he was appointed physician to King

* Thomas Key's work was entitled "Assertio Antiquitatis Oxoniensis Academiæ." To which, in reply, John Kaye wrote his "De Antiquitate Cantabrigiensis Academiæ." A rejoinder was written by the former, but never published; nor was it necessary. However, the subject was again taken up against the Cambridge historian, by a person who published, in 1730, a work in two octavo volumes, entitled "Vindiciæ antiquæ Academiæ Oxoniensis, contra. J. Cadium." The dispute respecting the priority of the Universities, as to the time of their foundation, will probably remain undecided. See the 2nd Volume of this work.

King Edward the Sixth. He continued in the same office to Queen Mary, with whom he was a great favorite. From her he obtained the liberty to incorporate his new college; and by her the statutes for its regulation were confirmed. The gates, he determined, should read moral lectures to the members. One is inscribed *Humilitatis*, or the gate of humility; necessarily entered before *Janua virtutis*, the gate of virtue; on the other side of this portico, which is much admired for its architecture, is *Jo. Caius posuit* SAPIENTIÆ, 1567:—John Kaye erected this in honor of wisdom. On the gate, leading to the public schools, which those, who have graduated, must have passed through, is HONORIS, the gate of honor. In the Norfolk Tour, it is stated, that Dr. Caius was physician to Queen Elizabeth; but it is likely his religious tenets precluded him from receiving such an appointment. He was constituted a fellow of the College of Physicians soon after its incorporation, and presided several years over that learned body. In the latter part of his life he retired to his college, where, though a catholic, he regularly attended the protestant service in the chapel. Going to London, on some urgent business, he was taken ill, and died, July 29, in the year 1573, and was buried in the Caius College chapel, Cambridge, under a canopied altar tomb, on which is this laconic, but energetic inscription:—

FUI CAIUS,
Vivit post funera virtus,
Ætatis suæ LXIII. Obiit XXIX IVLII, Anno Dni. 1573.

There is a painting of him in the common room of Caius College, an engraving from which may be seen in Holland's Heroologia Anglica. His principal writings are his History of the Sweating Sickness; a Treatise on the Antiquity, and a History of the University of Cambridge; History of the Bath, and a masterly treatise for the age in which it was written, entitled, De Canibus, or an Account of the whole Race of British Dogs. This was composed at the request of his friend Gesner; and established his fame

fame on the continent for his skill in Natural History. In a progress of King James the First, to Cambridge, as he passed through Caius College, the Master, as a compliment to the monarch's learning, and the learning of the founder, presented the king with Kaye's History of the University, to which the monarch observed, "Give me rather *Caius de Canibus.*" No greater stamp of the intrinsic value of this work can be affixed than its having been selected out of all the treatises on the subject, by the learned *Pennant*, to embellish his British Zoology; who therein gives it as the most judicious synoptic arrangement he could find. Dr. Kaye also furnished brief accounts of rare animals and plants, for Gesner; which are published in his "Historia de Quadrupedum," &c.; and, separately, under the title of "Short Histories of certain rare Animals and Plants, with corrections and enlargements, 1670." Like the great Linacre, Kaye united with medicine almost every branch of learning; and distinguished himself as a linguist, a critic, an antiquary, an historian, a topographer, and a naturalist, as well as a physician. On a variety of scientific subjects he exercised his pen. To the works already named might be added numerous others, a catalogue of which, amounting to *seventy-two treatises*, is published in Aikin's "Biographical Anecdotes of Medicine," and, in that work, a further account may be seen of this great ornament to his profession; as also in Fuller's Worthies, and in Pitt's *De Scriptoribus Anglicanis*, &c.

Edward Browne, a distinguished physician in the reign of Charles the Second, the eminent son of an eminent father, Sir Edward Browne, was born in this city about the year 1642. He received the first part of his education at the grammar-school. In 1665 he took the degree of bachelor in physic, at Cambridge; but was soon afterwards admitted *ad eundem*, at Oxford, and accumulated that, and a doctor's degree, in 1667. He then travelled over great part of the European continent, and published, on his return, an account of his travels; which, from his skill in natural history, contained very valuable information, particularly on mines

and metallurgy. Afterwards, settling in London, he was appointed a physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and to King Charles the Second; who, on his being made a fellow of the incorporated body of physicians, observed, "Browne was as learned as any of the college, and as well bred as any at court." He was first censor, then treasurer, and, in 1705, chosen president of the college; which office he held, August 1708, when he died at Northfleet, in Kent.

Doctor SAMUEL CLARKE, a learned polemical divine, who was distinguished in the latter part of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth century, was the son of Edward Clarke, Esq. who was an alderman of Norwich, and, for several years, one of its representatives in parliament. He was born, October 11, 1675. Making a rapid progress in classical learning, he was early removed to Cambridge, for the completion of his studies. There he soon distinguished himself in various departments of literature; but particularly in mathematics. The Newtonian system of phylosophy, just then propagated, attracted the notice of Clarke; and, by his corroborative illustrations of that theory, he obtained very considerable credit at the early age of twenty-two, and greatly contributed to its adoption in the University. Afterwards, applying himself to divinity, in which profession he had intended to devote his talents and his time, he took orders, and was soon appointed chaplain to Dr. Moore, Bishop of Norwich; who preferred him to the rectory of Drayton, near that city. Attached to those sciences, which had attracted his early notice, he still wished to hover over the shades of departed studies. He summoned mathematical calculation to the elucidation of every subject, and whatever did not allow such kind of demonstration, or was not capable of that sort of conclusion, he considered as inadmissible for truth. This gave a bias to his judgment, respecting the positions of many pious and learned men; and such is very apparent through many of his theological writings. It was this which induced him to take the upper and more arduous mode of inquiry upon metaphysical subjects; and obscuring the belief of

many

many by reasoning *a priori* on the existence of a Deity. In 1706, he published a Latin translation of Sir Isaac Newton's Optics, which obtained him much credit; and being recommended to Queen Anne, he was appointed by her to the valuable rectory of St. James's, Westminster. In 1710, he published one of the most magnificent books ever printed in England before: a splendid edition of Cæsar's Commentaries, in royal folio, elucidated with eighty-seven engravings. In 1712, appeared his treatise on the *Trinity*, which obtained for him a host of opponents; and placed a bar to his farther preferment. In this controversy, several writers distinguished themselves by their critical acumen and logical precision; but none so ably eluded the mathematical weapons, used by the author, as the Rev. Mr. Jones, in his treatise, called "The plain Doctrine of the Trinity, proved," &c. Dr. Clarke afterwards engaged in another abstruse controversy, concerning the natural principles of philosophy and religion; which included the abstruse subjects of *matter* and *spirit*. This was conducted in Latin, and the letters were published in London, 1717. A trait in his character, which may itself form a picture, ought not to be passed unnoticed:—On the death of his friend, Sir Isaac Newton, he was offered the lucrative place of *Master of the Mint*. The acceptance of this, with a delicacy of integrity rarely met with in the precincts of a court, he nobly declined; considering the duties of the office incompatible with the function, and inconsistent with the character, of a clergyman. In 1729, he published the first volume of Homer's Iliad in Greek, with a Latin translation, accompanied by critical notes. This contained the first twelve books, and before he had completed the remainder, he was suddenly taken ill, and died the same year*. He was an able scholar, an acute critic, and a clear and close reasoner. In his manners he was gentle, and his communicative

 disposition

* The last twelve books were published in the year 1732, in quarto, by his son, Mr. S. Clarke; who also, in 1740, completed the work, by publishing the Odyssey, in two volumes, quarto.

disposition and placidity of temper obtained him the esteem of many persons among the wise and good. After his death, Dr. John Clarke, Dean of Sarum, brother of the author, published, from his manuscripts, an Exposition of the Church Catechism, with several Sermons, in ten volumes. These form only a part of his numerous works, which will remain long a monument of his uncommon abilities, and profound learning. A portrait of this eminent divine is placed in the royal palace at Kensington, with a cenotaphial inscription beneath, expressive of his learning, conduct, and writings; and also of the estimation in which his worth was held by the public, and their regret for his loss.

William Cuningham, a physician of Norwich, was born in the year 1531; and though he died young, had made such use of his early time, as to exhibit many traits of profound learning. He studied physic, and graduated at Heidleburg, in Germany. He wrote several treatises on astronomy, chronology, and medicine; but what has rendered him famous, is a work entitled, "The Cosmographical Glass, conteyning the pleasant Principles of Cosmographie, Geographie, Hydrographie, or Navigation." This was printed by John Day, 1559, and contains some curious particulars respecting eclipses, the finding the longitude by *Jacob's Staff*, where paradise was situated, and an illustration of Lyra's opinion, that the *fiery sword*, which turned every way, was the *burning zone:* and conjectures to identify the locality of hell. The book is embellished with wooden cuts, illustrative of the several subjects, a portrait of the author in his doctor's habit, and "An accurate Map of the excellent city of Norwyche, as the form of it is at this present 1558." The frontispiece represents the sciences, at the bottom of which are these lines:—

"In this glasse if you will beholde
The sterry skie and y'earth so wide,
The seas also, with windes so colde,
Yea, and thyselfe, all these to guide.
What this type mean, first learn aright;
So shall the gayne thy travail quight."

It

It is dedicated to Sir Robert Dudley, Knight of the Garter, and the author thus apologizes for himself in the preface: "If for the difficultie of the worke any errour escape, remember I am the first, that ever in our tongue have written of this argument," &c. This is dated, Norwich, 18th of July, 1559, at the close of which year he died.

THOMAS LEGGE, a native of this city, was first a student of Trinity, then of Jesus, and afterwards of Caius College, Cambridge. In the Mastership of the latter he succeeded his friend Dr. Caius, in whose steps he appeared to tread; being, as Fuller, in his Worthies, states, a "great and distinguished antiquarian." Having attached himself to the study of the law, he was appointed king's legal professor, and twice honorably filled the chair of vice-chancellor in his own University. He was a dramatic writer also; one play is said to have been "filched" from him by a noted plagiary: it was entitled, "The Destruction of Jerusalem." Another, called "The Life of Richard the Third," was acted with general applause. These are highly curious productions, as being the writings of a cotemporary with the immortal English bard, Shakespeare. On his tomb, under a canopied monument, in the college chapel, is:

Thomas Legge,
Legum Doctor Quondam
Custos Hujus Collegii

Obiit Anno Domini
1607, 12 Die Jvlii
Ætatis suæ 72.

JOHN COSIN, the eldest son of Giles Cosin, a citizen of Norwich, was born November 30, 1594. Having studied in Caius College, Cambridge, he was appointed chaplain to Dr. Richard Neile, then bishop of Durham, who promoted him to a stall in that cathedral; and procured for him the archdeaconry of the East Riding of Yorkshire. At the commencement of the civil wars, he was deprived of his preferments, being the first clergyman who suffered that species of punishment for his loyalty. On his return with King Charles the Second, in 1660, he was promoted to the deanery of Peterborough, and soon afterwards elected bishop of Durham. He presided over that see till his

death, which happened in the seventy-eighth year of his age, January 15, 1672. He was the author of some publications on polemical divinity.

EDWARD KING, F. R. S. and F. S. A. the most erudite antiquary of modern times, descended from a Norfolk family of high respectability, was born at Norwich in the year 1734. His classical education he received under Doctors Bullock and Clerk; and in 1748 was sent to finish his education at Cambridge, where he was admitted a fellow commoner of Clare Hall. He was soon distinguished by the progress he made in his studies, and the regularity of his conduct. Having obtained academical honors, he entered a student of Lincoln's Inn. Called by that society, at the usual time, to the bar, he practised for a time with a degree of credit, which promised future eminence and success; but coming into possession of a large fortune by the death of his father, he quitted the law, and devoted his future attention to the dignified and useful pursuits of literature. It appears from the whole tenor of his life, and the drift of his numerous writings, that no person in modern times ever applied with more diligence to the investigation of objects which presented themselves to his inquiry; or brought more various learning to assist in the elucidation, than Mr. King. His mind seemed peculiarly formed for profound research; and his writings bear abundant testimony to that ingenuity of thought and extent of learning, which, on multifarious occasions, he displayed upon numerous topics, theological and literary. Indeed, from a view of these, a fair opinion of his character may be drawn. Mr. King had long been an active and very useful member, both of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies; and of the latter, became vice-president in the year 1781. In 1783, on the death of the president, Dean Milles, the society unanimously elected Mr. King: but his continuance in the chair was of short duration; for in the following year he resigned the office, to make way for the election of the Earl of Leicester, now Marquis of Townshend. During the short presidency of Mr. King, the affairs of the society took a very favorable turn. An unusual number

number of members were admitted, distinguished for their rank and learning; and the funds became in a flourishing state. Some misunderstanding taking place between the noble president and Mr. King, he ceased to give his usual attendance to the concerns of the society. In a philosophical, political, moral, and religious view, whatever tended to enlighten or benefit mankind, were alike the subjects of his pen. His first publication, in 1767, was "*An Essay on the English Constitution and Government*," 12mo. In 1773, he published "*A Letter to Dr. Hawkesworth.*" In 1777, he communicated an interesting memoir on ancient castles, to the Society of Antiquaries; and in 1782, he presented further elucidations, both of which essays were published in the Archaeologia. A few copies were printed for the use of his private friends. A volume of "*Hymns to the Supreme Being, in imitation of Eastern Song*," was published in 1786; since which period it has passed through several editions. In 1788, appeared his admirable philosophical illustrations of passages in Scripture, under the quaint title of "Morsels of Criticism," 4to. To this extraordinary work the public attention was called by the author of the Pursuits of Literature, who, on account of some striking interpretations of prophecy, which had been fulfilled by the aweful events on the Continent, addressed him in a most impassioned apostrophe in Greek, from an oration of Gregory Nazianzen. This work has been since printed in three volumes, octavo. A quarto pamphlet, entitled "*An Imitation of the Prayer of Abel*," was published in 1791; and in 1793, another in octavo, called "*Considerations on the Utility of the National Debt.*" In 1796, appeared "*Remarks concerning Stones said to have fallen from the Clouds, both in these Days and in Ancient Times.*" In 1798, he published, in quarto, "*Remarks on the Signs of the Times;*" which drew a high and well-merited eulogium from that distinguished prelate, the late Dr. Horsley. But the most eminent of all his works, is his "*Munimenta Antiqua,* or Observations on Ancient Castles; including Remarks on the whole Progress of Architecture, Eccle-

siastical as well as Military, in Great Britain, and on the corresponding Changes in Manners, Laws, and Customs; tending to illustrate Modern History, and to elucidate many interesting Passages in various Classic Authors *." It is comprised in four volumes, folio, one of which is posthumous—and must be considered a learned, comprehensive, and curious work. Some of his opinions are eccentric, and a few, perhaps, not established upon indisputable ground; but his views are vast, his reasons often cogent, and his ideas ingenious. After what the literary world has seen accomplished in this invaluable work, it cannot but deeply lament that the author did not live to complete another, which he refers to in his Morsels of Criticism, " An extensive Treatise on the *Theory* of the Earth." This and numerous manuscripts, upon various subjects, he has left. He died in London, April 16th, 1807, universally regretted, and was privately interred at Beckenham, in Kent. Mr. King was formerly recorder of Lynn.

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## The HUNDRED of HENSTEAD,

Situated on the south of Norwich, occupies an area of about nine miles in length, from Trowse-Newton to Saxlingham, by five miles in breadth, from Rockland to Castor. From its contiguity to Norwich, there is no market town in this hundred; and from the same cause its villages and hamlets are numerous and populous, and its lands are in a high state of cultivation. Near the centre of this district was formerly an extensive heath, which was grazed only by asses, and a poor breed of live stock; but in the year 1800, an act was passed for inclosing 1140 acres of it, and since that period

* The first volume was published in 1799, the second in 1802, the third in 1804, and the fourth in 1807.

riod the whole has been greatly improved in utility and value. This hundred, called, in Domesday Book, *Heinstede*, is supposed to derive its name from the Saxon words Heind, a husbandman, and Stede, a place of residence; whereby it is inferred that this district was noted for its husbandry during the Mercian dynasty. At the time of the great Norman survey the fee was possessed by the crown, excepting about five acres, which belonged to the Abbot of St. Bennet's at the Holme. Arminghall, and Trowse with Newton, were afterwards granted to the Priory of Norwich. Edward the First, A. D. 1327, conferred it on John de Clavering, Lord of Horseford, and the recorded value at that time was eight pounds. In that honor it continued some centuries, but subsequently reverted to the crown. James the First demised it to Sir Charles Cornwallis, Knight, and his heirs, with all its baronial rights. The annual assessment to the land-tax is 1,670l. 17s. 2d.; and the quarterly payments to the general levy, according to a six hundred pound rate, is 11l. 18s. 9d. The sum raised in this hundred for the maintenance of the poor, for the year ending at Easter 1776, was 1,383l. 11s. 2d; and for the year ending Easter 1803, 3,579l. 4s. 0½d. The poor-rate is levied according to the pound rack-rental in all the parishes, except three; and the parish of Yalverton is consolidated with the parish of Alpington, in the hundred of Loddon. The average of the poor-rate in the pound is four shillings and ninepence-halfpenny*.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Arminghall*, *Brixley*, *Brammerton*, *Castor-St. Edmund's*, *Framingham* Earl, *Framingham* Pigot†, *Holverstone*, *Kirby-Bedon*, *Porringland Great and Little*, *Rockland*, *Saxlingham* Nethergate, *Saxlingham* Thorpe, *Shottesham All Saints*, *Shottesham St. Mary and St. Martin*, *Stoke Holy Cross*, *Surlingham*, *Trowse* with Newton, and *Whittingham*.

CASTOR,

* "Abstract of returns relative to the expence and maintenance of the poor, made to the House of Commons," and printed in the year 1804.

† These villages are sometimes spelt *Framlingham*.

CASTOR, or *Caister St. Edmund's*, situated on the banks of the small river Tese, or Tess, three miles south of Norwich, though at present an inconsiderable village, was at a former period, according to Camden and other respectable topographers, the most flourishing city of the Britons, if not the residence of the Icenian kings: the *Venta Icenorum* of the Romans, and principal station of that people in the territory of the Iceni, and whence originated the present city of Norwich; the latter, as previously observed, having gradually arisen out of the ruins of the former. The name, Venta Icenorum was, for the sake of brevity, changed into *Castrum*, or the *camp;* which by the Saxons was again altered to Castor. "Nor is it to be wondered that this alone of the three Ventas has lost its name, since it has almost lost its existence; for nothing remains, except the walls, which inclose a square of about thirty acres, and the traces of houses, and a few Roman coins, every now and then turned up in digging*." Sufficient vestiges, however, still remain to shew its shape and military characteristics. Foundations of buildings may be traced, and sepulchral urns, with numerous Roman coins, have been discovered. A few years since was found a bronze figure of a satyr, of very fine workmanship, about eight inches in length, having a perforation through the centre, and thence supposed to have been used as a lamp. Another bronze lamp, in the shape of a foot, covered with a sandal, was also discovered here. The coins, many of which are preserved in the cabinet of the city library at Norwich, are of various emperors, from Nero to the time of the lower empire, but they are principally of Constantine; several of which have, on the reverse, the representation of a Roman soldier taking a Briton captive, and round the exergue, *Gloria exercitus*, and *Militum reperatio;* alluding to the prowess of that commander in quelling a formidable insurrection. In the achievement of which the Roman soldiers gained the reputation which they had previously lost. But the most demonstrative Roman remain at this place, is a large fortified Encampment, which agrees in

* Camden's Britannia, Gough's edition, 1789, Vol. II. p. 94.

in its form and fortifications with those described by Cæsar in his 'Commentaries,' and by Vegetius in his 'Epitome Institutorum Rei Militari.' From the dimensions, it was evidently the most considerable of the Roman military posts in this part of the island. These are convincing proofs that Castor was once a place of importance, and a station during the greater part of the period in which Britain was in possession of the Romans. But Blomefield, never having heard that any urns* were found here, was induced from that circumstance to differ from Camden, Gale, and others, and to fix the site of Venta Icenorum at *North Elmham*. Horsley, however, justly observes, as the description of Castor proves it to be Roman; so the name *Venta* is preserved in that of the river, anciently called *Wentfar* and *Wentum*†. Three facts, however, corroborate the opinion, that Castor is the site of the ancient Venta Icenorum. Ptolemy, in the Notitia, placed his Venta-Simenorum, which is evidently the same place, near the river, and at some distance from the mouth of the *Garienum*‡.

In the ninth Iter of Antoninus, Venta Icenorum is placed XXXI Roman millia from the station Sitomagus. Whether this according to Camden, be fixed at Thetford, or, conformably to the opinions of Gale, Ward, and Horsley, at Woolpit, in the county of Suffolk, it will be equally unavailing to Blomefield's hypothesis, either view excluding the village of North Elmham; because that lies considerably to the north-westward of the commencing station, and the direction of the iter is south-westerly to *Londinium*.

The

* Two Urns were found on Dunstan Hill, not a mile from the camp; and Browne particularly mentions Castor as a place where many Roman coins have been discovered. *Hydriotaphia*, &c.

† Britannia Romana, p. 443.

‡ A judicious critic has conjectured, that the nominal variance between the Notitia and Itinerary, has arisen from the same transcriber's mistaking the omicron for a sigma, which are very like in ancient manuscripts, and who dropping the kappa, copied Σιμενοι or Simenoi, for Οικενοι, or Oikenoi. Baxter's Glossary.

The Roman stativa here is situated about a furlong south-west of the village of Castor, on a gentle descent towards the banks of the river Tese, which probably was, at a former period, a more important stream, than at present, and navigable for Roman barges*. The encampment is in shape a parellogram with the corners rounded off, like those of Burgh and Dorchester, and consists of a single foss and vallum. It was also surrounded by a strong wall, as an additional rampart, built upon the vallum. Of the dimensions various accounts have been given. Those of Mr. Arderon, in the Philosophical Transactions, of Mr. Wilkins, in the Archaeologia, and of Mr. King, in his Munimenta Antiqua, differ, but the difference is so slight, as not to merit particular attention.—"The eastern end, in which was the *porta prætoriana*, is 1120 feet in extent, and the north and south sides, in which were the right and left hand gates, are 1349 feet in length †." This measurement applies to the outside of the rampart, for within the length is but 1176 feet, and the breadth 792. The foss and vallum, in some parts, are one hundred and forty feet wide, and, in others, not more than ninety. The whole space, including the rampart, is thirty-two acres, two roods, and thirty-six poles; and the interior area, occupies twenty-one acres, one rood, and twenty-one poles; by which it appears, that this station was of greater magnitude than any other in this part of England; being capable of containing six thousand men. The north, east, and south sides, exhibit large banks raised from a foss of considerable depth, and the west side has one formed on the margin of the river. In these

* It is recorded, that a large extent of flat country in the north and north-east of Norfolk, was subject to inundation, from which it is now free; either from the difference in the rise of tides on the coast, or the system of embankment, which has been successfully pursued; or from both causes. In 1609, an act of parliament, which passed for the prevention of such ravages, enumerates seventy-four parishes in Norfolk, and fifteen in Suffolk, subject to inundations, by spring tides, aided by westerly winds.

† Mr. Wilkins's Essay towards a History of the Venta Icenorum of the Romans, &c. in the twelfth volume of the Archaeologia, p. 136, &c.

these are the vestiges of four gates, the principal of which was the porta prætoriana. At each corner is a raised mount, on which was erected a bastion tower. One of these, on the north side, was standing when Mr. Arderon visited the spot in the year 1749*; but is since down. On the western side, which does not form a parallel line with the eastern, but projects near the centre in an obtuse angle, was the *porta decumana*, or water postern; and near it, the remains of a massy tower standing close to the river, erected to prevent any assault from that quarter, facilitate the delivery of supplies for the garrison, and furnish an easy and safe mode for its retreat. This tower, which has been much higher, is still thirty-three feet in circumference; and, though continually washed by the river, exhibits an instance of the incomparable masonry of the Romans, and of their peculiar mode of building at the time. The walls are composed of alternate layers of Roman tiles and flints, imbedded in a strong cement, strata super stratum; and the outside was probably faced with stone, &c. like the walls at Chesterford, St. Albans, Silchester, &c†. The layers of flint are from eighteen inches to two feet thick, and the tiles measure eighteen inches long, twelve inches broad, and from one inch and three-eighths to two inches thick. These tiles, or bricks, from their density and hardness shew they were composed of preferable materials to those in present use; and the mortar, which was a mixture of lime, sand, and ashes, peculiarly incorporated, still presents an unusual tenacity. From a piece of the dilapidated wall, which Mr. Wilkins observed in the northern foss, the rampart appears to have been built in a similar manner.

Within the area of the camp, near the south-east corner, stands the parish *Church;* probably erected on that site for the convenience of obtaining the materials, which are evidently taken from the ruins of the rampart. The walls are principally constructed with

* See Philosophical Transactions, No. 493.

† All these places have been particularly described in the preceding volumes of the present work.

with flint, but in the angles are numerous Roman tiles. On the south-east side, near the end of the chancel, in the bottom of the trench, is a Well about five feet deep, which is observed to be always full of very cold water.

After the building of Norwich, Castor declined in its consequence: as the one flourished the other decayed. Subsequent to that period, however, it was regarded as a place of defence; and as such, was held by Saxon, English, and Danish kings, till Edward the Confessor conferred it, with other possessions, on the monastery of St. Edmund's-Bury; which place possessed it at the time of the Norman Survey. It is now in the liberty of the Duke of Norfolk.

BIXLEY HALL, in the parish of *Bixley*, formerly the seat of the *Wards'*, but now of the Earl of Roseberry, is a handsome well-built house, and was erected by Sir Edward Ward, about the middle of the last century. It has three fronts, each containing three stories from the basement, and the attic windows are placed in the roof. It is situated in well-wooded grounds, near the high road leading from Norwich to Bungay.

SHOTTISHAM, or *Scotesham*, i. e. the village of *scots*, or *portions*, the landed property of the district being divided into twelve parts at the time of the Conquest; now consists of two parishes, St. Mary and All Saints. A great part of the land was in an open or commonable state till the year 1781, when 3561 acres were enclosed, and the rental, by that means, nearly doubled. One of these villages is noted as the birth place of HENRY HOWARD, youngest son of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, and brother to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, who was beheaded June 2, 1572. Henry, as a younger brother, after this event, was reduced to great indigence; but in the first year of King James, who justly appreciated his abilities and learning, he was sworn one of the privy council, appointed Lord-warden of the Cinque Ports, and Constable of Dover Castle. The king created him, the same year, Lord Howard of Marn-hill, and, soon afterwards, Earl

Earl of Northampton. He also made him one of the commissioners for executing the office of Earl Marshal of England; which had been forfeited by the attainder of his brother. The earl was afterwards installed Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, and next constituted Lord Privy Seal. He died at his house in Charing Cross, January 15, 1614, and was buried at Dover. That he was a profound scholar, appears by his learned work, dedicated to Sir Francis Walsingham, and entitled "A Dispensative against the Poison of supposed Prophecies."

SHOTTISHAM HALL was anciently the seat of the *D'Oyleys'*, a family of great antiquity, who derived their name from the lordship of Oyley, in Normandy; which was possessed by the father of Robert D'Oyley, who came to England with the Conqueror. This seat is, at present, the residence of Sir Robert Fellows, Bart. The windows of the hall formerly contained numerous arms, emblazoned in glass; most of which are destroyed. A geological phenomenon is recorded of this place, in a treatise, addressed as a letter, to Dr. Thomas Browne, entitled, "Mercurius Centralis; or, A Discourse of Subterraneal Cockle, Muscle, and Oyster Shells, found at the digging of a well at Sir William D'Oyley's, in Norfolk, many feet under ground, and at a considerable distance from the sea." It was written by Dr. Thomas Lawrence, who practised physic with considerable eminence in this part of the country.

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## BLOFIELD OR BLOEFIELD HUNDRED,

To the north-east of Henstead, and abutting the city of Norwich on its western extremity, comprehends an area of about twelve miles in length from north-west to south-east, by nearly four miles in width, in

in a transverse direction. The lordship of this hundred, at the time of the Norman survey, was in possession of the Crown. In the reign of Henry the First, the king directed his writ to Ralph Basset and Aubrey de Veré, and to the sheriffs and barons of Norfolk, certifying his grant for life to Eborard, Bishop of Norwich, of one hundred shillings per annum, out of the profits and issues of this hundred, and that of Walsham *. In subsequent reigns, it was usually held by a life-hold grant from the crown, by some person of distinction, at an annual rental. James the First, in the Fourth year of his reign, granted it, with its rights and profits, on a lease of three lives, to Sir Charles Cornwallis, Knt. at the low rent of 6l. 10s. 4d. per annum. This hundred formed part of the deanery of Blofield; but no deans have been collated since the Reformation. In the thirty-eighth year of Henry the Third's reign, on an appeal of death in the Court of King's Bench, the defendant put in a plea of jurisdiction, alleging that he was a *clerk*. The Dean of Blofield, J. R. appeared in court in behalf of the Bishop of Norwich, and, under his letters patent, demanded the said defendant as a clerk of his diocese; in compliance with which demand, he was delivered into the custody of the aforesaid Dean J. R.; the court at the same time requesting, that a speedy trial might take place, and strict justice be done the accused in the ecclesiastical court, according to the tenor of the canon law. This is a striking instance of the manner, at that period, of pleading *benefit of clergy*. This *privilegium clericale*, like the privilegium sanctuarii, in the course of time, became an intolerable nuisance to society, as it often enabled the crafty and vicious to defeat the ends of justice. By the corruption of the times, and those sinister views, ever inseperable from man, where opportunity offers for their accomplishment; numbers partook of the benefit of the divided jurisdiction, who were not in holy orders, nor even *trimmed*, as the law required, with the *clerical tonsure*, providing they could read; a high

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. VII. p. 208.

a high accomplishment in those days of ignorance and superstition. In more enlightened times, it was considered that learning, so far from being an extenuation of guilt, was quite the reverse. The law, therefore, wisely judged, that if the punishment of death was too severe for those who had been liberally instructed, it must be a *fortiori* too rigid also for the uninstructed; and consequently the benefit of clergy was extended to all who were entitled to ask it; that is, to such as, by the several successive statutes of criminal mitigation, have only been guilty of *clergyable offences*. By virtue of this privilege, the punishment of death is commuted for branding in the hand, and imprisonment, or the more judicious award of transportation *.

The money raised for the poor of this hundred in 1803, was 2,218l. 6s. 8¾d.; being an average of 8s. 6½d. in the pound rent per annum.

Blofield hundred contains the parishes of *Blofield*, *Bradston* †, *Brundall*, *Buckingham*, *Burlingham*, North St. Andrew, *Burlingham*, North St. Peter, *Burlingham*, South St. Edmund, *Cantley*, *Freethorpe*, *Hasingham*, *Limpenhoe*, *Lingwood*, *Plumstead* Great, *Plumstead* Little, *Postwick*, *Southwood*, *Strumpshaw*, with *Bradeston*, *Thorpe* near Norwich, and *Witton*.

STRUMPSHAW, a small village, situated in the south-eastern part of the hundred, stands upon a hill, which suddenly rises above the numerous marshes that for miles spread on each side the river Yare. At this place is a remarkable Windmill, supposed to stand on the highest ground in the county; for, hence Yarmouth, and Lowestoffe on the coast of Suffolk, are easily distinguishable; and it commands a full view over the adjacent hundreds, the city of Norwich, and the meanderings of the river, till it falls into Braydon Broad. The prospect from this eminence is justly esteemed the finest coup d'œil in Norfolk; and

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* Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England, Vol. IV.

† This is variously written Bradeston and Braideston.

the windmill, when the sails are going, forms a conspicuous landmark to distant parts of the county.

THORPE next NORWICH, anciently called *Torp*, a large parish, which lies on the northern bank of the river Wensum, was granted by King Henry the First, A. D. 1101, to Bishop Herbert, and the monks of the Priory of the Holy Trinity in Norwich, and their successors for ever. That monarch, by a mandate directed to all his barons, French and English, in Norfolk and Suffolk, commanded, that the bishop and the monastery should be free from all gelds and payments, aids, scots, &c.; and should hold the barony in the same manner as the king himself held it. The bishop was also allowed free warren, both here and at Eton; and without his licence no person was permitted to hunt at either place, under the forfeiture of ten pounds. This grant affords a curious precedent of the solemn manner in which the conveyance of lands, for religious uses, was usually performed at that period. By the king's own declaration prefixed, it appears, that the donation was made "for his own soul, the soul of his father, and mother, of King William his brother, of all his ancestors and successors, in the presence of Queen Maud, daughter of the King of Scotland, and the illustrious men, ecclesiastical and secular, of all England, whose names are underwritten; that his gift may for ever remain, confirmed with the sign of the holy cross, and corroborated with the seal of his royal dignity, in the year of our Lord 1101, on the third of the nones of September*." The deed was signed by the King, Queen, Robert, Duke of Normandy, the king's brother, the two archbishops, ten bishops, the pope's legate and chamberlain; eight earls, and ten persons of distinction in the royal household; nine abbots, and twelve other clergymen. A grant thus solemnly made, so amply witnessed and confirmed, and sanctioned by the prescriptive right of centuries, might have been considered as unalienably secure, and established beyond the possibility of revocation; but stability

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. VII. p. 259.

lity and perpetuity are but relative terms, when applied to sublunary affairs. This very grant, by the most glaring act of sacrilege, committed under the name of an *exchange of lands*, between Bishop Rugg and King Henry the Eighth, was, by a successor of the grantor, a monarch sitting upon the same throne, disannulled. The iniquitous seizure, for by no other terms can it be specified, was confirmed by an act of parliament, passed February 4, 1527; under the sanction of which, Thorpe once more reverted to the crown.

At the time of the grant, the lordship consisted principally of uncultivated lands, as heath, grass, and wood-land. For, in the year 1154, Pope Adrian the Fourth confirmed, by a bull, the moiety of Thorpe *wood*, to the prior of Norwich, reserving the demesne and the right of hunting to the bishop. And by an agreement between William de Raleigh, Bishop, and Simon, the prior, in the year 1236, it was decided, that the part of Thorpe-wood covered with oaks should be equally divided between them. The part lying nearest the manor-house of Thorpe, to be retained by the bishop; and that adjacent to bishop's bridge, by the prior. The *heath* to be divided into three parts—the bishop to possess two, and the prior one. By this adjustment, for mutual convenience, the prior acquired *free warren*, and other manorial rights. This lordship, called Pock-Thorpe, on the dissolution of the priory, by its surrender, A. D. 1538, was regranted to the prior *William Castleton*, who was the first dean. It is now vested in the Dean and Chapter of Norwich. The episcopal lordship was, in the thirty-fifth year of King Henry the Eighth, granted to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, to be held by a reserved rent. Part of the ancient palace still remains.

Mousehold Heath, as it is now called, had, at an early period, various sheep-walks, with a shepherd appointed to superintend them; the black cattle had a neatherd; and the swineherd, who looked after the hogs, had a salary of twenty-six shillings and eight-pence per annum. Parts of the heath formerly abounded

with timber and under-wood, as appears by a compotus, or modus of William de Kirkeby, who was prior in the year 1283, when the bursar of the monastery received thirty-seven shillings and four-pence for under-wood. In 1315, the oak-bark sold for nine shillings and eleven-pence; and, in 1335, the prior received, for timber, bark, and faggots, six pounds sixteen shillings and nine-pence. On this heath are some remarkable caverns, which appear to have been formed by digging away the flints, chalk, &c. used in building the adjacent city.

About a mile from the hamlet of Pockthorpe, stood a small *Priory*, dedicated to *St. Leonard*, built by Bishop Herbert, and given by him as a cell to the priory of Norwich. At the suppression, Henry the Eighth granted it to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, whose son, Henry, Earl of Surrey, erected, on the site, a noble mansion, denominated, from the situation, Mount Surrey, and from the owner, *Surrey House*. Michael Drayton, the poet, alludes to this place in his Epistle to Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, who is thus addressed:—

> "Why art thou slack, whilst no man puts his hand,
> To raise the Mount where Surrey's Tower must stand?
> Or who the groundsil of that work doth lay,
> Whilst like a wand'rer, thou abroad dost stray,
> Claspt in the arms of some lascivious dame,
> When thou shouldst rear an honor to thy name;
> When shall the Muses by fair Norwich dwell,
> To be the city of the learned well?
> Or when shall that fair hoof-plow'd spring distill,
> From great Mount Surrey, out of Leonard's Hill?"

To the north-east stood a *chapel*, dedicated to *St. Catherine*, supposed to have been built soon after the Conquest; and re-dedicated to the honor of St. William, a canonized boy, who, in the year 1137, had been crucified by the Jews, at Norwich, in ridicule of Christianity. He was consequently considered a martyr, and numerous pilgrims resorted to his shrine, to pay their devoirs,

voirs, and make their pious offerings. From that circumstance, St. Catherine's received the appellation of "*The church of St. William in the Wood.*" This was demolished at the dissolution, as was also the chapel of St. Thomas a Becket's translation. The ruins of St. Michael's chapel, on the north side of the road, near Bishop's gate, are yet visible. This is commonly called *Ket's Castle,* from that rebel making it his residence, previous to his being taken and executed, in the time of Edward the Sixth.

The *village* of Thorpe is delightfully situated on the side of a hill that overlooks the city of Norwich, from which it is about two miles distant. This vicinity, and the beauty of the situation, have induced many opulent citizens to make Thorpe their summer residence, and several gentlemen have erected handsome houses here, laid out spacious gardens, and ornamented them with various plantations. The views down the river, and over the adjacent country, are highly pleasing: the air is salubrious, and this *Richmond of Norfolk,* as it is commonly termed, may fairly rank with the most charming inland summer retreats in the kingdom.

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## The HUNDRED of WALSHAM

Is situated on the eastern border of the county, and joins that of Blofield on the western side. The extent, from the junction of the rivers Yare and Bure, to its extremity on the north-west, near Hoveton Broad, is about fifteen miles; and the breadth varies from two to eight miles. A considerable portion of the soil of this hundred is marshy, and subject to inundation, particularly on the eastern part. At the time of the Norman Survey, it was called Walesha, and was then held by the crown. Henry the First transferred it, by grant, to Eborard, Bishop of Norwich, as a life-hold, at an annual

rental of one hundred shillings per annum. It continued through successive reigns to be farmed out; and in the time of Edward the Second, John de Clavering was seized of this with the hundred of Blofield, and one court was held for both. James the First granted it to Sir Charles Cornwallis. The twelve parishes of this hundred, with the nineteen in Blofield, constitute the *Deanery of Blofield*, in the Archdeaconry of Norwich. The sum raised for the poor, in 1803, was 2,695l. 8s. 10¼d. making an average rate of six shillings and four-pence halfpenny in the annual pound rent. A house of industry was erected at *Acle*, for seven united parishes, in the year 1788. This hundred contains the parishes of *Acle*, *Beighton*, *Halvergate*, *Hemblington*, *Moulton*, *Ranworth*, (with Panxworth,) *Reedham*, *Tunstall*, *Upton* (cum Fishley,) *Walsham* South, St. Mary and St. Lawrence, *Wickhampton*, and *Woodbastwick*.

ACLE, now a village, but once a market town, is situated at a small distance from the river Bure, on a rising ground between Norwich and Yarmouth; and at the distance of about eleven miles from each. At the time of the Conquest it was a feoff of the crown, and was granted by the Conqueror, among other forfeited possessions of Ralph de Waher, to Roger Bigod; who obtained for it the privilege of a fair and market. Richard the Second, in the eleventh year of his reign, granted to the inhabitants freedom from all tolls, suits of shire, and of hundred, with some other immunities.

At *Acle-dam*, near the south bank of the river, stood a small religious house, called WAY-BRIDGE PRIORY; which was founded for canons regular of the Augustine order, by Roger Bigod, in the reign of Edward the First, and was endowed with lands in the adjoining marsh. Its revenues appear to have been very inconsiderable, for at the dissolution they were valued at 7l. 13s. 4d. per annum, and granted, with the advowson of the living, to Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk. A stone bridge, of

of one arch, called *Way-bridge*, connects the hundred of Walsham with that of West-Flegg. No other bridge existing between this and the mouth of the Yare, it forms an important pass; and in case of invasion would be of some military consequence.

REEDHAM, a village so called from the quantities of reeds growing in the adjacent marshes, stands in the southern part of the hundred on the river Yare. This is stated to be the place where the Danish king, Lothbroc, landed, when he was driven by a storm, in an open boat, upon the coast of East-Anglia.

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## CLAVERING HUNDRED,

In Domesday-book, called *Clavelinga*, occupies the south-east angle of the county, and comprehends an area of about ten miles in length, by eight, in a transverse direction. Part of this hundred, containing the parishes of Burgh-Apton, Brooke, and Howe, is insulated from the rest by the hundred of Loddon. At an early period this district was possessed by the crown, and was afterwards farmed by Sir John de Clavering, whose family name was probably derived from the lordship. This hundred contributes to the general county-rate for every six hundred pounds levy, 19l. 4s. 6d. And, for the maintenance of the poor, was incorporated with Loddon, by an act passed in the fourth year of the present reign. The poor are partly provided for in a house of industry, situated in the parish of Heckingham, and partially by an allowance out. The amount of money raised for the poor, in the year, ending at Easter, 1803, was 1,891l. 15s. 11½d. making an average rate of two shillings and seven-pence three-farthings in the pound. This hundred contains the parishes of *Aldeby*, *Brooke*, *Burgh-Apton*, *Burgh* St. Peter, *Ellingham*,

*Gelderstone, Gillingham* All Saints, *Gillingham* St. Mary, *Haddiscoe, Hales, Heckingham, Howe, Kirby* Cane, *Norton Subcourse, Raveningham, Stockton Clavering, Thorpe,* (next Haddiscoe,) *Thurlton, Toft Monks,* and *Wheatacre* All Saints.

At ALDBY, *Aldeby,* or *Aldeburg,* was a small *priory,* or a cell, to that of Norwich. It was founded by Agnes de Beaufoe, or Belso, afterwards wife of Hubert de Rye, for a prior and three black monks; and was endowed with lands and appropriate tythes, in the time of Henry the First, by Henry de Rye, the son of Hubert and Agnes, "whom Tanner, by mistake, calls Robert de Ria *." From a licence granted by King Edward the First, to William Roscelyne, for purchasing of the priory at Norwich, the lordship of this village, except a manor reserved to the convent; it appears, contrary to the opinion of some great lawyers, that manors have been erected *within what is termed prescriptive time.* Other instances will occur corroborative of this fact. In a contest, subsequent to this purchase, between William Roscelyne and the prior, respecting commonable rights; the former permitted the latter to dig *marle,* for the purpose of improving his lands in the great common of Aldby, then called *Mekylheyth.* This was in the year 1310, and the circumstance tends to prove, that what is magnified into new discovery, is often no more than a renewal of an old practice, which had been long neglected, or forgotten. Marling of lands, in which beneficial improvement Norfolk has eminently taken the lead, is stated, by some authors on agriculture, to have been *first* introduced about the year 1748. The temporalities of this priory, in the sixth year of Edward the Fourth, were valued at 7l. 15s. 6d. On the dissolution it escheated to the crown, and, on the foundation of a dean and chapter at Norwich, was conferred on that ecclesiastical body.

HADESCOE,

* Blomefield's Essay, Vol. VIII. p. 2. See also, Tanner's Notitia Monastica.

HADESCOE, or HADDISCOE, is a populous village, lying near the eastern extremity of the hundred and county. The church stands on an eminence, having a tract of marshes on the north-east, and a valley, here called a *delve*, on the south. At this place was a *preceptory of Knights' Templars*, to which King Henry the Third was a great benefactor. In the year 1285, as appears by a grant of that monarch, the master of the Templars demanded view of frank pledge, the assize of bread, right of gallows, &c. of all the tenants. Between the village and the river Waveney, lies an extensive level of marshes, nearly two miles wide; through which the turnpike-road from Beccles to Yarmouth passes. At the eastern extremity of this hundred, is *St. Olave's Bridge*, which is said to have been built at the expence of Sir James Hobart, Knight, Attorney-general to King Henry the Seventh; who also directed a *causeway* to be raised over the adjoining boggy ground. It appears, however, from a manuscript in possession of Mr. Aldis, of Beccles, that these improvements were made at the *expence* and *desire* of *Dame Hobart*, wife of the said Sir James. A bridge had been projected here in the time of Edward the First*, and the scheme brought forward in subsequent reigns, but never put in execution till the period here assigned. Dame Hobart's bridge having been found to be in a very decayed state, was taken down about the year 1770, and the present handsome free-stone

* King Edward the First, in the twenty-fifth year of his reign, issued a writ quod damnum, for granting leave to Jeffery de Polerin, of Gernemouth (Yarmouth), to build a bridge over the river Waveney, at St. Olave's Priory. A jury being impannelled, returned, as a verdict, that one Syric, a fisherman, called *John atte ferrys*, had, for several years, been accustomed to carry persons over the water here, for which he received bread, herrings, and other presents in kind, to the annual value of twenty shillings; that, in the time of his son Ralph, it amounted to thirty shillings; that it was then in possession of John de Ludham and the prior of Toft; and, by various improvements, had been of the annual value of fifteen pounds. This is a striking instance of that species of aquatic property, termed, *right of ferry*, and which, to the present time, forms an endless source of litigation.

stone structure erected, at the joint expence of the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Contiguous to the village of Geldestone, is

GELDESTONE, or GELDISTON HALL, a handsome modern building, pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Waveney, and is the seat of Thomas Kerridge, Esq. In digging vaults for making cellars to the mansion, about thirty years ago, was found, a curious Roman bracelet of pure gold, now in possession of Mr. Kerridge.

GILLINGHAM, an extensive parish in the south part of the hundred, had formerly two parish churches—St. Mary's, and All Saints; but the latter was taken down in the year 1748, and the two livings united. The tower is in ruins, and the walls being covered with ivy, render it a picturesque object. The *church* of St. Mary's is a small, ancient building, having a semi-circular east end, thatched, and a square tower, rising from the centre of the church. The latter consists of only a choir, and, the tower is decorated, near the top, with a series of semi-circular arches, on each face having zig-zag mouldings*. A vast tract of marsh land here, has been converted into excellent grazing land, by inclosing, under an act passed for the purpose, in the forty-fifth year of the present reign.

GILLINGHAM HALL, a handsome seat of the ancient family of the Bacons, situated near the village, is now the property of Miss Elizabeth Schutz.

RAVENINGHAM HALL, the seat of Sir Edmund Bacon, Bart.† the

* An engraved view of this church, with some account of the parish, is given by Mr. W. Aldis, in the Gentlemans' Magazine, 1806, p. 793.

† An ancestor of this family, named Grimbald, came to England with William,

the premier baronet of England, stands near the village of RAVENINGHAM. At this place a *college* was founded in the year 1350, for a master and eight secular priests to officiate in the parish church, "for the honour of God and his mother." This college was amply endowed, by Sir John de Norwich, with lands, which, at the dissolution, were granted, with the appropriate rectory, to Sir Anthony Denny. This Sir John de Norwich was vice-admiral of England in the time of Edward the Third, and, with his two brothers, lie buried in the church of Raveningham. Among the masters of this college, who were successively rectors of the church, the name of *Shelton* occurs, in the register for the year 1530. He was so well skilled in hydraulics, and so celebrated for his knowledge in *civil engineering*, &c. that his advice was consulted, and his plans acted upon, in cutting the haven of Yarmouth, in 1528.

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## LODDON HUNDRED,

In the Domesday-book written Lothna, Loddinga, and Lothinga, took its name from the town of Loddon, which is said to have been so denominated from being situated among watery meads. It is divided from Blofield on the north by the river Wensum or Yare, and on the east by the hundred of Clavering, with which it was formerly united. Both were held by the crown in the time of Edward the Confessor, and subsequently leased out to Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, Sir John de Clavering,

William, Earl Warren, at the Norman invasion, and settled first at Letheringset, near Holt, in this county. In this family are included those illustrious characters *Friar Roger Bacon*, and *Sir Nicholas Bacon*, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to Queen Elizabeth.

vering, and others. The greatest extent of Loddon, from Hardley Cross to Topcroft, is about ten miles; and nearly the same distance from Rockland Broad to the Waveney, near Bungay Bridge: but the breadth differs from four to seven miles. The whole consists of a fertile soil, is well cultivated, and abounds with wood and water.

For every six hundred pound levy, it pays sixteen pounds twelve shillings to the county-rate. It is in the Deanery of Brooke and Archdeaconry of Norfolk. The sum raised for the poor of this division, in 1803, was 2,266l. 6s. 3½d.; being an average of two shillings and sixpence-halfpenny in the pound-rate per annum.

The parish of Yelverton, joined with Alpington, is in the hundred of Henstead; and the latter parish is, in Milne's Survey, erroneously placed. Burgh-Apton and Brook, which belong to the hundred of Clavering, are, by Mr. Parkin, accounted for in this; and Alpington, though distinct on the poll-books of the county, has been supposed the same place as Hellington *.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Alpington* (with Yelverton), *Ashby, Bedingham, Broome, Carleton, Chedgrave, Claxton, Ditchingham, Hardley, Hedenham, Hillington, Kirkstead, Langley, Loddon, Mundham, Seething, Sisland, Thurton, Thwaite, Topcroft, and Woodton.*

## LODDON,

A small market town, situated on the eastern side of the hundred to which it gives name, stands on the banks of a small stream, which rising near Howe in Clavering, falls into the Yare at Hardley Cross. The market is weekly, on Fridays; and it has two annual fairs. In the time of Edward the First, the manor of Loddon formed part of the immense estates belonging to the Bigod family. In the twenty-fifth year of that reign, Roger Bigod,

* Hist. and Antiq. of Norf. Vol. VIII. p. 2.

Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, contracted by indenture with John de Segrave, to serve him in time of war and peace with six knights, either in England, Wales, or Scotland, for the term of his life; the said earl allowing him and his knights *bouche of court*, and provender for their horses. On these conditions the earl made a grant of the manor to John de Segrave, who procured of the king a charter of free warren. From this family it was conveyed, by marriage, into that of *Manny*. In the time of King Henry the Seventh it belonged to *Sir James Hobart**, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas; in which office he died December 26, 1525. He lived at *Hales Hall*, commonly called Loddon Hall, from its being in that parish. Sir James was a great benefactor to the town and neighbourhood. The Church at Loddon, which is a handsome stone structure, with a fine tower, was erected at his sole expence. In the chancel, on a marble altar tomb, are several brass plates, with the arms, and two mutilated stone figures, sacred to the memory of Henry Hobart, Esq. and others of the family. A piece of stained glass, taken out of the east window of Loddon Church, represents Sir James Hobart and his lady, both kneeling, with the family arms emblazoned on his surcoat, and also on her mantle. The right side of this picture was embellished with a sketch of Loddon Church, and the left with a view of St. Olave's Bridge. Beneath, was the following inscription in black letter:

"Orate pro aĩa JACI HOBART, milit. & attornati dmi regis, qui Hanc ecclesiam a primis fundamentis condidit in tribus annis cum suis propriis bonis, anno regis Henrici septimi undecimo." This painting, according to the minutes of the Spalding Society, was in the possession of the Rev. Hugh James, of Upwell; but is now the property of Mr. William Cann, of Mendham.

LANGLEY

* James Hobart had the honor of knighthood conferred on him by King Henry the Seventh. From this Sir James have descended three distinguished families in Norfolk. In the second line was his grandson, Sir Henry Hobart, who was Attorney-General to King James the First, and ancestor of the Earls of Buckinghamshire.

LANGLEY ABBEY is called by Speed, who follows Leland, a nunnery; but Dugdale, from undoubted authority, observes, that it was a premonstratensian abbey of white canons, and founded A. D. 1198, by Robert Fitz-Roger, who was sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in the third and fourth years of King Richard the First. For its support he made a grant of the manor and church of Langley. King John, in the first year of his reign, confirmed the donations of the founder; and granted liberty to hold a fair and market at this place; and also liberty of sac and soc, with various other privileges within the manor. In subsequent periods, the monastery received continual additions to its possessions, from the posterity of the founder, who had assumed the name of *De Clavering*. The names of many other persons are specified in the list of benefactors. So amply was it endowed, that, according to Parkin, the Bede-roll included such a number of names, that a considerable portion of the officiating minister's time must have been occupied to enumerate them in the daily prayers. The establishment was for an abbot and fifteen canons, who were first chosen from the priory of Alnwick. At the Dissolution, Langley Abbey was found assessed at three shillings and nine-pence, payable every seven weeks, for service of guard to Norwich Castle. In the thirty-eighth year of King Henry the Eighth, the revenues, valued at 128l. 19s. 9d. per annum, according to Speed, were granted, with the site of the abbey, now called the *Grange*, to John Berney, Esq. At present it is included in the extensive park and plantations of *Sir Thomas Beauchamp Proctor*, Bart. His house, called

LANGLEY HALL, is a noble modern building, having four quadrangular turrets, one at each corner, rising a story above the centre of the building; and two detached wings. The offices are inclosed by plantations, and the park is well stocked with deer.

In the parish of Langley, five hundred and fifty acres of marshy common were enclosed by an act, which was obtained in the year 1800; and the worthy baronet, who is lord of the manor,

manor, has allotted out a portion for such poor people as are able to keep cows.

The *Church* of THWAITE, in this hundred, has already been referred to, and its ancient entrance door-way described, p. 50. As this place formerly belonged to the Abbey of St. Edmund's Bury, the present building was probably erected soon after the foundation of that monastery. Its door-way has some similar ornaments to what may be seen on the curious tower of St. James, at Bury.

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## HUMBLEYARD HUNDRED,

Situated to the south-west of the city and county of Norwich liberty, is in length, from north to south, about seven miles; and in breadth six, from east to west. It comprehends a rich and well-wooded tract of land, and is watered by various brooks or streams, besides the rivers Tese and Yare, which wind their course through it. The soil is fertile, and the lands in a high state of cultivation. There is no market-town in the hundred. The crown was possessed of the fee at the time of the Conquest; and in later periods it was leased out to different persons. James the First granted the whole for three lives to Sir Charles Cornwallis, Knt. at the annual rent of 7l. 6s. 7d. This hundred, which forms a whole deanery, is in the archdeaconry of Norwich; and at the time of the survey, called the Norwich taxation, contained twenty-eight parishes*. It pays to every six hundred pound levy of the county-rate, 13l. 19s. The sum raised for the poor, in the year ending 1803, was 3,959l. 4s. 1d. being an average of six shillings and two-pence in the pound; and in nine parishes, the *rack-rental* is made the scale of proportion for levying the poor-tax.

This

* Blomefield's Essay, Vol. V. p. 1.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Bracon Ash, Carlton East, Colney, Cringleford, Dunstan, Flordon, Hethel, Hethersett, Hintwood, Keswick, Ketteringham, Merkshall,* or *Mattishall Heath, Melton-Magna, Melton-Parva, Mulbarton, Newton-Flotman, Swainsthorpe, Swardeston,* and *Wreningham.*

MULBARTON, a village situated on the road from Norwich to New Buckenham, was called *Molke,* or *Great* Barton, in the Conqueror's time; and the manor was then in the possession of Roger Bigod. In the time of King Henry the Third, it appears to have belonged to Thomas de Sancto Omero, or St. Omer, who was justice-itinerant for Cambridgeshire; and who obtained of that monarch the privilege of a fair for the village, and free warren to his manor. For in the year 1285, upon a writ of *quo warranto* being issued for every manor in the county, this Thomas claimed view of *frankpledge,* assize of bread, and ale, and all other liberties attaching to a court-*lete,* or leet. He also claimed the privilege of *infangenthef,* and erected a gallows here, on which, in the same year, was hanged one Walter Godwyne, who was taken on this manor, and convicted of felony in the court-lete of the same. But it appearing that this was an assumed liberty, without a royal grant, an order was made, that the lord should be disseized of such liberty, and the gallows taken down. The Church was erected by this baron, the windows of which were highly ornamented with stained glass. Against the west wall of the nave, is a mural monument to the memory of Sir EDWIN RICH. On the top is a large hour-glass, and underneath this descriptive, but peurile inscription:—

"Our life is like an hour-glass, and our RICHES are like sand in it, which runs with us but the time of our continuance here, and then must be turned up by another.

To speak to men, as if men heard you talk,
To live with men as if God saw you walk;
When thou art young, to live well thou must strive;
When thou art old, to die well then contrive.

*Thetford*

*Thetford* gave me birth, and Norwich breeding;
Trinity College, in Cambridge, learning;
Lincoln's Inn did teach me law and equity;
Reports I have made in the courts of Chancery.
And though I cannot skill in rhymes, yet know it,
In my life I was mine own death's poet;
For he who leaves his work to other's trust,
May be deceived, when he lies in the dust;
And now I have travelled through all these ways,
Here I conclude the story of my days;
And here my rhymes I end, then ask no more,
Here lies Sir Edwin *Rich*, who lov'd the *poor*.

Qui moritur, antequam moritur,
Non moritur, postquam moritur.

Memoriæ sacrum, anno sui domini 1675, etat suæ 81.

Non est mortale quod opto."

This village is celebrated as the birth-place of SIR THOMAS RICHARDSON, whose father was rector of the parish. He was bred to the law, in which profession he became so eminent as to be appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, November 28, 1626; and died about eight years afterwards. He was interred in Westminster Abbey-church, where an inscription, on a brass plate, relates some particulars of his life and death.

COLNEY is an inconsiderable village in the north part of the hundred, situated upon a stream, which forms the southern boundary of the city and county-liberty. In the church, which is a small building, with a round tower, is a flat stone to the memory of SIR THOMAS BETTYS; and on a brass plate the following inscription:

" O man the belle is solemplye rownge,
And the Messe wyth devosyion songe,
And the mete meryly hete,
Sone shall Sere Thomas Bettys be forgete,
On whose sowle God have mercy, Amen.

Qui obiit V° die Aprilis, A°. Dni. MCCCCLXXXI."

The manor is the property of ——— Norris, Esq. who has made various improvements at his seat here, which is called COLNEY HALL. This is a handsome mansion, standing on high grounds above the river; whence is an extensive and varied view over the surrounding district.

INTWOOD, now a small village, was, at the Conquest, granted by King William, to Eudo, the Sewer; and early became the property of an ancient family named *Tiviles*. In 1548, *Sir Richard Gresham, Knt.* of London, died seized of the manor of Intwood, and five other manors in this hundred. In this village is the fine old seat, called INTWOOD HALL, at which Sir Thomas Gresham, Knt. son of Sir Richard, in the year 1549, entertained John Dudley, the great Earl of Warwick, in his journey against the forces under the rebel Ket. The house Sir Thomas afterwards enlarged, and left it a curious specimen of the then prevalent style of building. This Sir Thomas was the founder of the Royal Exchange, London, and of a *College* for the encouragement of useful learning; in which he made a provision for six professors, to deliver lectures in the liberal sciences. The manor was sold about the year 1596, to Henry Hobart, Esq. and is now the property of the Earl of Buckinghamshire.

KETERINGHAM was the property of Robert *de Vallibus*, or *Vaux*, who came to England with the Conqueror. After experiencing various changes, it came, in the reign of Henry the Seventh, into the possession of the distinguished family of *Heveningham*, who took their name from a place in the county of Suffolk, and of which, Jeffery de Heveningham was lord of the manor, in the time of the Danish king Canute, A. D. 1020. Few families can boast such a knightly pedigree as this; it having had twenty-seven knights in nearly regular succession, with the exception of one or two descents. From monumental inscriptions in the chancel, Keteringham appears to have been first in possession

possession of one of this family, in the time of Henry the Seventh. Sir Henry Grey, by his will, dated 1492, bequeathed this manor to Thomas Heveningham, Esq. who had married the daughter of Dame Jane Grey, wife of the aforesaid Sir Henry. This Thomas was a great favorite of the Duke of Gloucester, who settled on him an annuity for life. He died A. D. 1499; and, with his wife, were buried in the chancel. Over the effigies of both, who are in a kneeling posture, with four sons behind him, and four daughters behind her, are Latin inscriptions, requesting posthumous prayers for the benefit of the deceased; and a propitietur to the Deity *.

WILLIAM HEVENINGHAM, Esq. who was high sheriff for the county of Norfolk, in the year 1635, was one of the judges who decided the fate of King Charles the First. For this act, at the Restoration, he was tried and convicted; but, being one of the nineteen regicides, who surrendered themselves up, under the proclamation, issued on the 6th of June, 1660, he received the royal pardon. The following year, Mary, his second wife, obtained a patent, granting her most, if not the whole of her husband's confiscated estates, particularly that of Heveningham, and this of Ketteringham. On the north side of the altar is a handsome monument of black and white marble, with the effigies of them in praying postures before a reading-table, and two children, kneeling by the side of them. Affixed to the table, is the figure of an angel, with expanded wings, embracing an infant in swaddling clothes; under which is this inscription:

"This monument was erected by the Right Honorable the Lady Mary Heveningham, for her deceased husband, herself and children, the daughter, and grand-daughter of the Right Honorable Henry and John Carey, Viscounts Rochford, Barons of Hunsdon, and Earls of Dover; and of Abigail, Countess of Dover.

Under this pyramid of marble lies,
Both root and branch of noble progenies,

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. V. p. 92.

His matchless lady him secured, brought home;
In peace deceased, lies umbraged in this tomb,
Where undisturbed may their slumbering dust
Rest till the resurrection of the just.

Inclyta magnifici cernis Monumenta Sepulchri
Forte brevi spatio, fata futura tua.

Reader, consider what thou here dost see
In a few moments thine own fate may be.

Anno Domini 1678."

This lady died at her house in Jermyn-street, London, in January, 1696, and lies buried with her husband in Keteringham church. Their son, Sir William Heveningham, who was knighted by Charles the Second, in the year 1674, had an heiress, who sold the manor with the fine family mansion to Edward Atkyns, Esq. son and heir of Sir Edward Atkyns, Knt. Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

KETERINGHAM HALL, the property and seat of Edward Atkyns, Esq. was repaired by William Heveningham, Esq. in the year 1648; and the grounds improved by a large plantation of trees made at the same time. It is a handsome seat, in a pleasant part of the county.

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## DEPEWADE, OR DEEPWADE HUNDRED,

So called from some celebrated ford, or pass, over a stream, (the term signifying a *Deep-ford*), lies to the south of Humbleyard; and is, in length, from east to west, ten miles, and seven in breadth. The soil is fertile, the lands well inclosed, and the country abounds with timber. Blomefield describes the roads as being intolerably bad; but that inconvenience has been since his time much

much removed, by the attention paid to statistical improvements. Two turnpike-roads pass through the hundred, and the vicinal roads are generally in good condition. About 1700 acres of land were inclosed in this district, under an act passed in the year 1778. The fee of this hundred was in possession of the crown till the time of Richard the First. In 1327, Edward the Third granted it to John de Clavering, and his heirs; and it is now divided amongst various proprietors. It forms the deanery of Depwade, and formerly contained twenty-three parishes. It pays to the county-rate, for every six hundred pound levy, 23l. 11s. 6d.; the annual amount of money raised for the use of the poor in 1803, was 8,211l. 6s. 7d., forming an average rate of six shillings one penny three-farthings in the pound rent. The rate is apportioned on all, except six parishes, according to the rack-rental *.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Ashwellthorpe, Aslacton, Bunwell, Carlton Rode, Forncett* St. Mary, *Forncett* St. Peter, *Fritton, Fandenhall, Hapton, Hardwick, Hempnall, Moulton, Morning Thorpe, Shelton, Stratton* St. Mary, *Stratton* St. Michael, *Tacolneston, Tasburgh, Tharston, Tibbenham,* and *Wacton Magna.*

TASBURGH, or *Taesborough,* at present a small village, erroneously placed, by Camden, at the source of the river Wensum, lies near the confluence of three streams, which, uniting here, form the river Tess, or Tese, anciently called Taiis, and Tau. This, which is now a stream of little note, was evidently once much deeper, and flowed wider than at present; for it is recorded, that it was fordable in no other place, in the hundred, but this. More probably, Tasburgh might be the furthest place down the stream that was passable with safety, thence called the *deep-wade,* and the hundred, from that circumstance, denominated Depwade. The name of Tasburgh points it out, as having originally been a fortified place upon the river Tese. Dr. Gale, in his Commen-



* Abstract of Returns, &c. p. 320.

tary on the Itinerary of Antoninus, observes, that the river was called *Tau*, that coins have been discovered here, bearing the inscription, IC. DURO. T.; and that this was evidently the station *Ad Taum*, mentioned in the Petingerian tables. Camden thought it to be the Ad Taum mentioned in the Chorographical tables, published by Velser; although Baxter was determined to fix it at Cambridge. As Venta Icenorum takes place of this in the Itinerary, Ward supposed that station to have arisen from the decay of Ad Taum; but it is most probable the latter was an advanced post to the former; and an advantageous situation it was to guard the pass of the river, and cover the important city—the Icenian Venta. The castrametation is on the summit of a high hill, which commands an extensive view of the surrounding country. The river washes its eastern base. The entrenchment is of a square form, containing an area of about twenty-four acres; and the fossa and valla are still very visible. In the midst of it stands the parish church, which has a *round tower*, said to have been erected in the year 1385.

This place gave name to the ancient family of Tasburg, who long were lords of the manor, and had their seat here; but on their removing from it, made their principal residence at Flixton, or Felixtown, in the county of Suffolk.

STRATTON, or *Straton*, the name of two villages which formerly constituted one place, derive their name from *Stratum*, or the *street;* being built upon part of the great Roman road: vestiges of which are yet traceable. By the Saxons it was called *Estratunas*, and, at present, is known by the name of Long Stratton. That this was anciently a place of consequence is evinced by its vicinity to Tasburgh, (of which station it probably formed a part,) and from the numerous coins, urns, and other Roman and Saxon Antiquities, which have been discovered in and near the village. On opening a gravel-pit, about a furlong from the houses, in the year 1773, at the depth of six feet below the surface, several urns were found placed in a regular arrangement,

arrangement. These were all mutilated, except one, which was preserved, and is now in the collection of Sir John Berney, of Kirby-Bedon. The vessel is curiously ornamented, and when found, had a common plain pan, formed of red earth, laid over it, as a cover. This answers the description usually given of the Roman mode of closing the mouths of urns, after the ashes had been deposited. At the distance of ten yards from the same gravel-pit, and about the same depth, a sepulchral *hearth* was afterwards discovered, of a quadrangular form, twelve feet in diameter, and covered to the depth of three inches, with a mixture of ashes and burnt earth. This was, doubtless, one of those places set apart for burning the bodies of the defunct, and for more easily collecting the ashes to place in the funereal urns.

ESTRATUNA anciently belonged to the East-Anglian kings, and subsequently comprised three parishes—St. Mary's, St. Michael's, and St. Peter's; but the church of the latter was dilapidated in the time of Henry the Seventh. This place long enjoyed the privilege of a market under the honor of Richmond; but, on a dispute arising between the lessee of the honor and the Lord of Stratton-hall, in the time of Henry the Eighth, the market, not being confirmed by royal grant, was lost, and has been discontinued ever since. The church, a large building, having a nave, two ailes, and a chancel, was erected by Sir Roger de Bourne, Knight, about the year 1330. The *circular tower* appears of more ancient date, and is surmounted by a small spire. In the chancel, at the east end, is an altar tomb, to the memory of JUDGE REEVE, and his wife. A very long inscription, in Latin, commemorates and praises his private virtues, and upright conduct as a judge, &c. He died, March 27, 1647, and she, March 12, 1657. Under a low tomb are deposited the remains of the founder, marked by a mutilated inscription; and in one of the windows was some stained glass, with this inscription:

"ORATE PRO AIA, REG—ORNE—TIS." *i. e.* Orate Pro Animabus ROGERI DE BORNE, Militis, &c.

FORNCET, a village including several *berwics*, or hamlets, is famous for having been the property of Roger Bigod, first Earl of Norfolk, of the succeeding earls and dukes, and as standing at the head of the honor of Norfolk. The *knighten court*, as it was termed, was usually held here every three weeks, to which were attached five different officers, viz. an auditor, a feodary, a collector, a serjeant, and a bailiff. At this court all the great men who held their several manors, lands, or tenements, of the Norfolk honor, were obliged to attend in person, or by their attornies, to do suit and service; and commute for castle-guard service of the earl's castle at Norwich. The lordship is at present the property of the Duke of Norfolk.

TACOLNESTON, commonly called Tacleston, a small village, which derived its name of *Villa Tacolvi*, from some ancient owner, is celebrated as the birth-place of *John Tacesphalus*, who was elected prior of the Carmelites, or White-Friars, in Norwich, A. D. 1404. He was a learned divine, a powerful orator, and a man of distinguished piety. Fuller, however, was of opinion, that all his merits were absorbed by an intolerant spirit, and his virtues annihilated by a want of the essential ingredient—christian charity. He declaimed violently against the doctrines of Huss and Wicliffe; and Lollardism felt the effects of his persecuting zeal. He published two treatises, as a Commentary on the Book of Revelations; a collection of Sermons adapted for Holy-Days; and several other works; which, to render of greater weight and authority, he made a journey to Rome, and obtained, from Pope Martin the Fifth, the papal approbation and imprimatur. While on that business he died, and was buried there*.

TACOLNESTON HALL, a fine old brick mansion, consists of a body and two wings. The former is three stories in height, having the attic windows placed in its gable-ended roof, and the chimnies

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. V. p. 167.

chimnies are composed of circular clusters. It was probably erected by Richard Browne de Sparkes, about the year 1670; the manor then being in the Browne family, and was lately the seat of Knipe Gobbet, Esq.

THORPE, called also ASHWELL-THORPE, to distinguish it from other places bearing the same appellation in the county, was, for many centuries, the property of the ancient and eminently distinguished family of *De Thorpe*, who took their surname from the place. Sir William de Thorpe, Chief Justice of the King's Bench and Common Pleas, in the reign of Richard the Second, having been convicted of bribery in his official duty, contrary to his oath, was adjudged to death, and his estates confiscated *. In the year 1350, the record was affirmed; but soon afterwards he found means to make his peace with the king, who created him baron of the exchequer. Sir Edmund de Thorpe is the person whom Holinshed calls *Lord* Thorpe; and Stow says that he was slain at the siege of Lover's Castle, in Normandy, with the Lords Scales and D'Arcey †. His body was brought to England, and buried in a new aile, which he had annexed to the parish church of Ashwell-Thorpe. On a tomb are effigies, in alabaster, of himself and his lady, lying under a wooden canopy. He is represented in complete armour, a chaplet about his head, and his sword by his side. At his feet couches a greyhound, and, at hers, a lap-dog. Around the tomb are angels holding shields, in which are quartered various family arms.

Through the family of Howard, Thorpe descended, by marriage, to that of Bourchier. Sir John Bourchier was made knight of the bath, on the marriage of the Duke of York, King Edward the Fourth's second son, with the daughter and heiress of the Duke of Norfolk. In the seventh year of Henry the Seventh's

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. V. p. 147.

† Stow's Annals, &c. fo. 354.

Seventh's reign, he was retained to serve the king with two spearmen, himself as one; each accompanied with his *custrel* * and page, and nine demi-lances, serving on horseback; for an expedition fitting out against France. October the 1st. A. D. 1491, the king took shipping at Sandwich, landed at Calais, and laid siege to Boulogne; when a peace was made, November 8th, to which the peers and knights assented; and among the number was this Sir John Bourchier. In the eleventh year of that reign, he was summoned to parliament as *Lord Berners*. In the sixth year of Henry the Eighth's reign, he was, by patent, made chancellor of the exchequer for life; and the same year he accompanied that monarch's sister, the Lady Mary, into France. On his return, the king conferred on him numerous manors, with their knight's fees. Lord Berners obtained, as a warrior, extensive fame; and is no less distinguished in a literary point of view. His whole life was a contradiction of that pernicious fallacy, that learning is incompatible with the life of a soldier, and scientific acquisitions useless appendages to the military character. At the command of King Henry the Eighth, he translated the Chronicles of Froissart into English, to which he added explanatory notes †. He also translated various other works from the French, Spanish, and Italian languages. Among these are 'The Life of Sir Arthur, an Amorican Knight:' 'The famous Exploits of Hugh de Bourdeaux; Marcus Aurelius; and The Castle of Love.' He wrote a treatise, entitled, 'The Duties of the inhabitants of Calais;' and a comedy, called 'Ite in Vineam.' He died, when deputy-general of the town and marches of Calais, and was interred in St. Mary's Church, at that place.—By marriage with a daughter of this

* A servant to a man at arms, or life-guardsman.

† A new translation, with elaborate elucidatory notes, has been lately published by *Thomas Johnes*, Esq. of Havod, knight of the shire for the county of Cardigan; a gentleman, who has evinced on this, and many other occasions, an ardent and truly laudable zeal in behalf of the literature, arts, and fame of his native country.

this Lord Berners, Thorpe came into the possession of the Knivet family, who succeeded to the title, which is now in abeyance.

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## EARSHAM HUNDRED,

Abutting upon Suffolk, is separated from that county by the river Waveney, which forms its southern boundary. It is in length, from Billingford, to the river, near Bungay, twelve miles; and its greatest breadth, from Needham to Pilham Green, does not exceed five. The soil is fertile, and the lands principally enclosed. The manor paramount of this hundred was bestowed by Richard the First, on Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, who had the exclusive view of frank-pledge and free-warren throughout the whole; as appears by a suit instituted A. D. 1285, against the Earl of Norfolk and his *warrener*, at the instance of Robert de Tateshale, Lord of Buckenham Castle, because the earl's warrener had taken the dogs and two hares from De Tateshale's gamekeeper of Denton. For the liberties of this superior jurisdiction, a court-leet was formerly held at the town of Harleston every three weeks. The hundred still forms part of the honor of Norfolk, and is sometimes denominated the *Half* Hundred of Earsham; because with Diss, it constitutes the Deanery of Redenhall, in the Archdeaconry of Norwich. It pays to the county-rate, according to a six hundred pound levy, 19l. 19s. 6d. The sum raised for the maintenance of the poor, in the year ending at Easter, 1803, was 5,600l. 17s. 7¼d. making an average rate in the pound rental of six shillings, one penny-farthing. There is one market town in the hundred, Harleston; and part of the parish of Mendham is comprehended within the county of Suffolk.

This

This hundred contains the parishes and hamlets of *Alburgh*, *Billingford*, *Brockdish*, *Denton*, *Earsham*, *Mendham* (part of), *Needham* (in Mendham P.) *Pulham*, St. Mary the Virgin, *Pulham*, St. Mary Magdalen, *Redenhall* (with Harleston), *Rushall*, *Starston*, *Thorpe Abbotts*, and *Wortwell* (in Redenhall P.).

EARSHAM, anciently written *Erles-ham*, is supposed to have been so denominated from its having belonged to the earls or erles of Norfolk: but it is called in the Domesday-book *Hersam*, of which the former is merely a corruption. *Her*, in Saxon, means a soldier; and *Hersham* may, therefore, signify *military-ham*, or a place where contending armies have engaged; and local circumstances favor such an interpretation. Giving name to the hundred, it was once the most considerable town. It is at present a large village, situated on the turnpike-road which leads from Bungay to Harleston, near the marshes upon the Waveney. This at times, like many other parts of Norfolk, though not on the coast, has been liable to suffer from the unruliness of the ocean. In the year 1652, the commission of sewers, by an inquest, found 418 acres, (valued at above 330l.) of low ground in this parish subject to inundation; and the proprietors of such lands were assessed with the sum of 13l. 10s. 7d. each, towards the repair of the sea-breach, which had then recently been made between Lowestoff and Kirkly, in the county of Suffolk. In some ancient records appear numerous legacies, bequeathed for the repairs of Earsham *Dam*.

The Church-yard occupies the area of an ancient *encampment*, the ramparts of which are formed in an oval shape. It is supposed to have been constructed by the Saxons or Danes. Within the chancel of the church are several flat stones, with brasses, &c. to the memory of the families of Gooch, Buxton, and Throgmorton.

At Earsham was formerly an extensive park, now disparked, belonging to the lord of the manor. In the thirty-fifth year of King Edward the First's reign, it was well stocked, and consisted of

of two hundred and eighty-six acres of land in demesne, sixteen acres of meadow, the hall-dykes or fishery, a water-mill, and divers woods and fens: all which were kept for the use of Roger Bigod, who principally resided at his adjacent castle of Bungay, in Suffolk.

Earsham Hall, built about the beginning of the last century, by John Buxton, Esq. is a large handsome square mansion, situated in a pleasant, though not extensive park. It was purchased of the Buxtons by Colonel William Wyndham, and is at present the property and residence of Joseph Wyndham, Esq.; a gentleman of distinguished taste and antiquarian knowledge.

Billingford, a small village, is noted in historic records, as once belonging to *Sir Simon Burley, Knight-banneret*, the great favorite of Edward the Black Prince. He was tutor to his son Richard, afterwards King Richard the Second; by whom he was advanced to high honors, and to appointments of great trust and emolument. He was made one of the privy-council, knight of the garter, chamberlain of the royal household, governor of Windsor Castle, constable of Dover, and lord-warden of the Cinque-ports. He also obtained a grant of the castle and lordship of Llanstephan, in Pembrokeshire; was made master of the king's falcons, kept at Charing-mews, now called the King's-*mews*. With that appointment, he also received the manor of Barrock, near Gravesend in Kent, and various other lordships and lands. Thus, high in his master's favour, and established, as he fondly fancied, beyond all controul, he gave the reins to pride, and its inseparable concomitant, if allied with power, oppression; so that he incurred the unappeasable displeasure of the whole nation. For to such an intolerable pitch had he carried his insolence and criminality, that the power of the crown could not shield him from the vengeance imperiously demanded by the people, and awarded by the law. He was attainted of high crimes and misdemeanors, found guilty, and beheaded on Tower-

Tower-hill, A. D. 1388*. The conduct of this man is a striking instance of that shameful accumulation of places of public trust, and prodigality of the public money, too prevalent in every period of history; and his fate should be an aweful admonitory lesson to many, in the present age, who, under an idea of impunity, are following such base and infamous examples.

Brockdish, or *Broad-ditch*, so called from the river Waveney assuming such an appearance here, is a small village, remarkable for the peculiar construction of the eastern end of its church. The roof is formed with several single pieces of bent, or crooked limbs of trees, which have been chosen for their curvature being adapted to the required shape of the tiling. The late Rev. Francis Blomefield, the historian of the county, was presented to this rectory by Mrs. Ellen Lawrence, widow, of Castle Acre. In the parish records appear the following entries; which serve to illustrate the manners and customs of a people at a former period:—

"1553. Queen Mary paid for a book, called a manuel, 2s. & 6d.; for two days making the altar, and the holy-water stope, and for a lock for the font, ———. 1554, paid for the rood, 9d. 1555, paid for painting the rood-loft, 14d. At the visitation of my lord Legate, 16d. To the organs-maker, 4d.; and for the chalice, 26s. 1557, paid for the carriage of the Bible to Bocnam, 12d.; for the deliverance of the small books at Harlstone, 15d. Paid for two images making, 5s.; for painting them, 16d.; for irons for them, 8d."—On Queen Elizabeth ascending the throne, in the year 1558, an order, to remove all images, and

* It appears, that he was unable, from the profits of his own *inheritance*, to expend more than *twenty* marks per annum; but through the favor of his sovereign, he obtained places, pensions, and lands, which produced him an annual revenue of *three thousand* marks; only *ninety* times as much as his inheritable property. He was so ostentatious as to give two hundred and twenty liveries of scarlet cloth, &c. in a year. Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. V. p. 320.

and other popish reliques, was issued, under which the following items are recorded: "Paid for sinking the altar, 4d.; carrying out the altar, 5d.; mending the communion table, 3d. 1561, paid for the X commandments, 18d.; for pulling down the rood-loft, 14d.; paid Roger Colby, repairing the *Crosse* in the street, 26s. 8d.; for a lock to the *Crosse-house*, &c. ———. 1565, for digging the ground, and levelling the altar in the south chapel, and mending the pavement, ——. For making the communion cup at Harlstone, 5s. 4d.; besides 6s. 2d. worth of silver, more than the old chalice weyed. 1569, paid to Belward, the Dean, for certifying there is no cover to the cup, 8d."

Brockdish Hall, was long the residence of a distinguished family, who derived their name from the village. It afterwards became the property of the Gryses, or Grices; and from them descended to the Lawrences. Robert Lawrence, who built the present mansion, died July 24, 1637; and lies buried in the chancel, near the altar.

Aslacton, a small village, is worthy of attention from having been the property, and birth-place of

Sir William le Neve, an antiquary, herald, and collector, who was born here in the beginning of the year 1592; and having received the rudiments of classical learning at a grammar-school, he was admitted a student of Caius College, Cambridge; graduated, and going to London, was created *herald*, by the name of *Mowbray*, June the 29th, 1624. Shortly after he was made *York* herald, then *Norroy*, at last *Clarencieux*, and, at the same time, received the honor of knighthood. In the history of the civil war, an anecdote is related, which places Sir William in an amiable point of view; though it proves he was fitter for the retired, than for the public walks of life. Previous to the fatal battle of Edgehill, in the year 1643, he was sent, by King Charles the First, with a proclamation to the rebel army, then commanded by the Earl of Essex; announcing a free pardon to

to all such as would lay down their arms; but, when he offered to read it to the soldiers, the Earl sharply rebuked him, and charged him on pain of death to be silent. Intimidated by this menace, he returned without having accomplished the purpose of his mission. He died, unmarried, at Hoxton, near London, August 15, 1661. The numerous collections of this industrious antiquary, " who, for above forty years, at his great expence and immense trouble, amassed together the greatest fund of antiquities for this county, that was ever collected for any single county, in this kingdom *." To this valuable treasury of information Mr. Blomefield had recourse, while compiling his Essay towards a History of Norfolk; and as the opportunities of Sir William were great, and his industry unwearied, to that collection the work of Blomefield is doubtless indebted for numerous documents which it contains, respecting manorial and geneological history.

## HARLESTON,

A market-town seated on the turnpike-road from Bungay to Diss, a small distance from the river Waveney, was anciently called *Herolveston* and *Herolfston*, from a Danish leader, named *Herolf*, who came over to England with Canute, and probably settled at this place. This town is supposed to have given name to the family of *Herolveston*, about the year 1109; of which was the famous *Sir John Herolveston*, who is frequently mentioned in our English chronicles for his martial and valiant exploits. He was particularly instrumental in quelling a formidable insurrection in this, and the adjoining counties, in the reign of King Richard the Second. From him are descended the Harlestons, two respectable families in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.

This town never appears to have been very large, nor to have experienced those fluctuations which commonly attend on places devoted

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. I. Introduct. p. 15.

devoted to trade. The population of Harleston cum Redenhall, as taken by a gentleman resident here, amounts to 1534. By the returns made to government in the year 1800, the number of houses was 273, and, of persons, 1459. There is a weekly market on Wednesdays, and two annual fairs, which are well frequented; particularly the one holden on the vigil and day of the decollation of St. John the Baptist, and six following days. To this mart immense droves of Scotch cattle are generally brought. A part of this town only, called the Middle-row, stands in the hamlet of Harleston, the rest being in the parish of Redenhall. The *church* of St. John the Baptist, in the former, is a chapel to, though not dependent on, the mother church of the latter. The church of St. Mary's, in Redenhall, is a large regular structure, consisting of a chancel, nave, and two ailes, having a lofty tower at the west-end, surmounted by a spire. The body of the church was rebuilt with free-stone, at the commencement of the fourteenth century, by Thomas de Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk. The arms of Brotherton and Mowbray, with a leopard's face, the badge of De la Pole, are cut on many of the stones. On the west doors are carved a hammer and horseshoe, and a shoe with pincers, as rebusses for the names of *Smith* and *Hammer-smith*. The chancel was rebuilt by William Newport, rector, between the years 1311 and 1326. His remains were buried under a flat stone, which had his effigy in brass, and a Latin inscription, wherein he is styled *Sire* William; an appellation of distinction usually given at that time to the clergy. The noble square tower, crowned with battlements, has a small spire, or pinnacle, at each angle, and a larger one in the centre. It was begun in the year 1460, and finished about the year 1520, when Richard Shelton was rector. As a rebus to his name, and that of Sir John Shelton, a contributor, on the south-east spire, is carved an escallop-shell and a tun, that is, *Shel-ton*. In 1616, the tower having been rent, from top to bottom, by lightning, was anchored up, as it appears at present. In the year 1680, the spire was, by a like accident, entirely demolished; and again rebuilt in the year 1681.

1681. The church contains many flat monumental stones, the brasses of which are gone; and in the north chapel, belonging to Gawdy Hall, are several, commemorative of the ancient family of *Gawdy*, and an altar tomb for Sir Thomas Gawdy, who was buried, in the year 1588.

Gawdy Hall was long the seat of an ancient family of that name. This large mansion was built by Thomas Gawdy, Esq. about the latter end of the sixteenth century. Till within a few years past, the arms belonging to the Gawdy's, impaling and quartering those of the families with whom they had intermarried, richly emblazoned in stained glass, were placed in the windows of the hall; but have since been removed to a window, erected for the purpose, in a chapel, or *dormitory*, as it is called, in the church of Redenhall. Among the families distinguished in these heraldic memorials, are those of Basingbourne, Hare, Stow, Bardolf, Norfolk, L'Estrange, Rous, &c. &c. From the Gawdy's, the hall, manors, and estates devolved, by purchase, to the *Wogans*, a Pembrokeshire family, who came and resided here till the year 1778; when the elder branch became extinct by the death of John Wogan, Esq. to whose memory, and that of his widow, who died in 1788, an elegant monument has been erected in the dormitory of Redenhall church. From the Wogans the hall became, by inheritance, the property of the Rev. Gervase Holmes, of Ipswich.

Mendam Priory, in the village of *Mendham*, though it stood, as the church does now, on the Suffolk side of the river, was ever claimed as belonging to the county of Norfolk. This monastery was founded in the time of King Stephen, for *Cluniac* monks, by William, son of Roger de Huntingfield, with the approbation of Roger, his son and heir. The founder bestowed the whole of Mendham, then a small woody island, formed by a division in the stream of the Waveney, on the monks of Castle-Acre priory, on condition that they should erect a church of stone, build near it a convent,

vent, and place, in the latter, at least, eight of their brethren. The house was then to be considered a cell to the priory of the former place, as that was to the monastery of St. Pancras, at Lewes, in Suffolk; which was also a cell to the church of Clugny, in France. Half a mark of silver was annually to be paid out of the revenues of Mendham, as an acknowledgment to the prior of Castle-Acre; who engaged not to remove any monks belonging to this house, except convicted of disobedience, incontinence, or wilful dilapidations. At the dissolution, the site and revenues were granted to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.

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## DISS HUNDRED

Is separated from the county of Suffolk, to the south, by the river Waveney; and, on the east, is bounded by the half hundred of Earsham, which, with this, is considered in some records, as constituting one whole hundred. But, by another division, they are reckoned two distinct hundreds, and comprise the deanery of Redenhall, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk. It is eight miles in length, and about six broad. The country abounds with wood: Diss forming part of what is usually called, the *woodland half* of the county. The lands are generally moist, owing to a substratum of impervious blue clay, which underlays a great portion of the soil, at the depth of one or two feet from the surface; yet they are very productive both in corn and grass.

This district pays, to every six hundred pound levy of the county rate, 17l. 5s. annually; and the sum raised for the use of the poor, in the year ending at Easter 1803, was 7,563l. 5s. 2d. being an average of six shillings and eight-pence three-farthings in the pound rent. The topographical account of Diss Hundred was the first written and published by Mr. Blomefield, in his Essay, &c. he having been patron and rector of the church at Fersfield, where he resided many years before he was instituted

to the living of Brockdish. In his account of this district, therefore, he was induced to be more particular than in the description of any other; and it must be acknowledged, that he descends to a minutiæ of detail, which is uninteresting to the general reader, and which often appears very trivial.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Brossingham, Barston, Dickleburgh, Diss, Fersfield, Gissing, Roydon, Scole, Shelfanger, Shimpling, Thelverton, Tivetshall* St. Margaret, *Tivetshall* St. Mary, and *Winfarthing*.

## DISS,

A small market-town, which gives name to the hundred, is said to derive its appellation from a mere, or large pool of water*; situated on the south side of, and near to, the houses. The town consists of several streets, the principal of which being paved, give it a neat appearance. Here is a small weekly market on Fridays, which was formerly much frequented by the weavers, who resided in the vicinity. According to the population report of 1800, Diss contained 327 houses, and 2246 inhabitants†. In the civil war, during the time when parliamentary imposts were laid upon the associated counties, and the public charges were supported by a monthly levy, two valuations were made of this town; one amounted to 2616l. per annum; the other to 2700l. The *church*, which is a regular building, consisting of a chancel, nave, and two ailes, with a square tower at the west end, is remarkable for the cleristory tier of windows. These are disposed in pairs, five of which are on each side of the nave; and, between every

* Dise, or Diss, according to some etymologists, signifies an expanse of water.

† In specifying the number of families, and of persons, in the year 1736, Blomefield must be mistaken in stating the former at 240, and the latter at 2000. The disproportion is palpable.

every pair, is a plain pilaster. The heads of the windows are neither round, pointed, nor flat, but the arch is formed by a *waving line*. The door of the south porch has a semicircular arch; and over it is a window, formed of seven arched lights. This building was erected by the family of *Fitzwalters*, lords of the place; of which was Robert Fitzwalter, who eminently distinguished himself in the reign of King John. That monarch, because he could not obtain the knight's consent to gratify an illicit passion he entertained for his daughter, Matilda, surnamed the Fair, banished the father, and afterwards caused the daughter to be poisoned, in the year 1213. This was one cause of the dire disasters which quickly after befel the kingdom in the unhappy baronial wars *. A *charity-school*, which, in 1711, was first endowed at Palgrave, in Suffolk, was, two years afterwards, moved hither, and kept in a building formerly the guild-hall.

This place has given birth to several distinguished characters:

RALPH DE DICETO, Dean of St. Paul's in the time of Henry the Second, was a native of Diss; of whom Dugdale gives an account in his history of St. Paul's cathedral.

WALTER OF DISS, born here, was a Carmelite friar of Norwich, and afterwards confessor to John, Duke of Lancaster and Acquitain, King of Leon and Castile; and also to Constance, his queen.

*John Skelton*, a facetious poet, and king's orator, was rector, and, probably, a native of this place †. He lived in the reigns of Henry the Seventh and Eighth; and resided here between the years 1503 and 1512. He is said to have been the king's *Poet Laureate*, which might have been the case; but it appears from Anthony Wood's Athenæ Oxoniensis, that those, who at that period graduated in grammar and rhetoric, in Oxford, had their temples adorned with laurel, and were in future considered, and



* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. I. p. 5.

† Bale and Wood describe Shelton as a native of Cumberland, but they seem to have confounded him with another person. Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. I. p. 31.

titled, if they wrote verses, Poets *Laureate*. Erasmus, who was partial to wit and humour, called him "the light and ornament of English scholars." Wood describes his wit as biting, his laughter scornful, and his jokes reflectively sharp. Having reflected upon the celebrated grammarian, William Lilly, as a bad verse-maker, the incensed schoolmaster replied to the insolent poet with this retort:—

> "Skeltone, dum tibi parare famam,
> Et doctus fieri, studes poeta,
> Doctrinam nec habes nec es poeta."

The dominician friars, whose vices were scandalously notorious, fell justly under the lash of Skelton's satirical pen; in retaliation, they instigated the persecuting spirit of Bishop Nix against the poet. The prelate pronounced him guilty of keeping a concubine, though she was actually his wife; but for this he was suspended, and his living sequestered.

OSMULDESTONE, alias SCOLE, a small village, situated at the junction of two turnpike-roads, is noted for a remarkable house, called *Scole Inn*, which was built of brick, by John Peck, Esq. a merchant of Norwich, in the year 1655. His arms, impaling those of his wife, were placed over the entrance porch. It was a large structure, ornamented with a profusion of carved work the size of life; but the sign was more singular than the house. The latter was a very large mass of wood carving, and consisted of an assemblage of images, surrounded by the arms of the chief towns and families in the county. The figures, as they appeared on the north-east side, are—1. Jonah coming out of the Fish's mouth.—2. A Lion supporting the Arms of Great Yarmouth.—3. A Bacchus.—4. The Arms of Lindley.—5. The Arms of Hobart.—6. A Shepherd playing upon his Pipe.—7. An Angel supporting the Arms of Mr. Peck's Wife.—8. An Angel supporting the Arms of Mr. Peck.—9. A white Hart, with the motto, *Implentur veteris Bacchi pinguisque ferinæ. An. Dom.* 1655.—10. The

10. The Arms of the late Earl of Yarmouth.—11. The Arms of the Duke of Norfolk.—12. Neptune on a Dolphin.—13. A Lion supporting the Arms of Norwich.—14. Charon carrying a Hag to Erebus.—15. Cerberus.—16. An Huntsman.—17. Actæon.—18. A white Hart, couchant.—19. Prudence.—20. Fortitude.—21. Temperance.—22. Justice.—23. Diana.—24. Time devouring an Infant.—25. An Astronomer, seated on a Circumferenter, which by a secret device acted as an Hygrometer. This turned towards the north in fine weather, and, in wet, faced that quarter whence the rain proceeded. This remarkable specimen of sculpture, in wood, was executed by an artisan named *Fairchild,* and cost one thousand and fifty-seven pounds. Among the numerous vagaries of men, which originate in the vanity and caprice of weak minds, this sign may be justly deemed one in the first class. For instead of reflecting any degree of honor or credit on the inventor, it rather served to associate his name with sentiments of contempt. It was only calculated to hold him up to the pity and derision of sensible men; although it might excite the vacant wonder of those of shallow intellects.

At this inn, was formerly, a large *round bed,* capable of containing between thirty and forty persons.

WINFARTHING, a small village, which anciently gave name to the hundred, as appears by the Norman survey, still is invested with peculiar privileges. The tenants are excused from serving as jurors at any sessions, or assizes, without the manor; and are exempt from tolls in markets, fairs, &c. upon renewing their writ of franchise, at the commencement of every king's reign. This renewal is also annually acknowledged by the sheriff of the county. These immunities were obtained from King Henry the Third, by that valiant knight, Sir William Munchensy, in consideration of his military services against the French. William, his son and heir, possessed, in this parish, a large park, well stocked with deer; and had liberty to keep dogs for hunting the hare, fox, and wild cat, in his wastes and forests. So

late as the year 1604, it abounded with deer; for, at that time, Sir Basingbourne Gawdy, of West Harling, had annually a *fee doe* and *buck*, with the liberty of hunting them in Winfarthing great park, which was then the property of the Earl of Arundel.

" In Winfarthing, a little village in Norfolk, there was a certayne swerd, called the '*Good Swerd* of *Winfarthing*:' this swerd was counted so precious a relique, and of so great a virtue, that there was a solemne pilgrimage used unto it, with large giftes and offringes, with vow-makings, crouchinges, and kissenges:—This swerd was visited far and near, for many and sundry purposes, but specially for thinges, that were lost, and for horses, that were eyther stolen, or were else run astray: it helpid also to the shortning of a *married man's life*, if that the wyfe, which was weary of her husband would set a candle before that swerd every Sunday for the space of a whole yere, no Sunday excepted, for then all was vain, whatsoever was done before *." Were this sword still in existence, with its emanating virtue undiminished, what an invaluable relique would it be! The errors of Gretna Green might easily be corrected—the expensive actions for criminal conversation be avoided—and the painful investigations, instituted for procuring bills of divorce, rendered for ever nugatory. Candles would be sent from every part of the kingdom, and this now insignificant village, again become the focus of votive light, and the depository of riches, the commutation of iniquity. " I have many times heard," continues the author, " when I was a child, of divers ancient men and wemen, that this swerd was the swerd of a certayne thief which took sanctuary in that churchyard, and afterwards, through the negligence of the watchmen, escaped and left his swerd behind him, which being found and laid up in a certayne old chest, was, afterwards, through the sublety of the parson and the clerk of the same parish, made a precious relique full of virtue, able to do much; but, especially, to enrich the box, and make fat the parson's pouch."

This

* Bacon's " Reliques of Rome," fol. 91, printed 1563.

This is one glaring instance of the numerous means adopted by priests, in the corrupt age of monachism, to make a tool of vulgar credulity, for the purpose of amassing wealth, pampering luxury, and exalting the supposed sanctity and infallibility of the priesthood. Of these delusive arts much is divulged in the work just referred to, and more may be seen in Fuller's Church History of Great Britain.

## GUILTCROSS HUNDRED

lies to the west of that of Diss, and is bounded, on the south, by the Little Ouse river. It extends, in length, about thirteen miles, and is of various breadths, from two to six miles. The soil of the western part of the hundred consists chiefly of sand, with a substratum of chalk; the other parts are heavy loam and clay. Great agricultural improvements have been recently made in this district. By an act passed in the year 1789, about one thousand acres were inclosed in the parish of Banham; and by another, passed in 1799, nearly two thousand five hundred acres of commons and open field lands, in the parish of Kenninghall, were brought into cultivation. This hundred is supposed to receive its name from a remarkable *cross*, ornamented with *gold*, which, at a former period was standing within it. But Mr. Neve observes, the name was anciently written *Gydecross*, which he thinks alluded to a cross, that, till lately, stood near Roodham, on the verge of the hundred; and was distinguishable from most parts of this district. The crown was seized of the hundred in the time of the Conqueror, who gave it to William de Albany. It afterwards passed, with the manor of Kenninghall, is, at present, comprehended within the Duke of Norfolk's liberty, and, with the hundred of Shropham constitute the deanery of Rockland, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk. For every six hundred pound levy, it pays 12l.

12l. 3s. 3d. to the county rate; and the sum raised for the maintenance of the poor, in the year 1803, was 3,882l. 11s. 8¾d.; forming an average assessment of four shillings and ten-pence in the pound rent per annum.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Banham*, *Blownoston*, *Garboldisham*, *Gasthorpe*, *Harling* East, *Harling* West, *Kenninghall*, *Lopham* North, *Lopham* South, *Quiddenham*, *Riddlesworth*, and *Rushford*.

KENNINGHALL, at present a village, was a place of high consideration, at a remote period. Camden thinks it was a seat of the Icenian kings, and received its name from that people. It is, however, more obviously derived from the Saxon word, *Kyning*, in that language signifying *king*, and Halla a seat, or palace; that is, The *king's palace;* and the name by which it is registered in Domesday-book, *Cheninkhala*, corroborates this etymology. The East-Anglian kings, Blomefield supposes, had a seat and castle here, the site of which is still visible. The spot is called the *Candleyards*, a corruption, probably, from the name; with the addition of *yards*, i. e. premises*. An area, containing about four acres, is encompassed with a large foss, and, at each corner, is an artificial mount; that at the south-east angle being of the largest dimensions. Edward the Confessor was seized of Kenninghall, and, in the survey of that reign, it was valued at 10l. and five sextaries of honey. The Conqueror conferred it on William de Albini, or Albany, and his heirs, to be held by the tenure of service, as chief butler to the kings of England at their coronation: in consequence of which the family added to their name, *Pincerna regis*. From them, through the Montalts and Mowbrays, it descended to the Howards, in which family the royalties still remain. During those proud periods of baronial grandeur, the

* This name is supposed to be allusive to the offices afterwards erected on the site, among which was a *chandlery!* Near this have been found numerous urns, probably Roman.

the manor possessed free warren, view of frankpledge, waif, assize of bread and ale, a pillory, *ducking-stool*, and gallows; and the town had an annual fair, and a weekly market, held on Mondays; the former is still kept, but the latter has long been discontinued.

On the site of the royal palace, a mansion, called EAST-HALL, continued through all the changes of the manor, to be the residence of the proprietors, till it was taken down by Thomas, the great Duke of Norfolk, who erected a most noble structure about a furlong to the north-east of the ancient edifice. This house was built in the form of an H, having two stately fronts to the east and west. It was seated near the centre of a park, which contained more than seven hundred acres of land. Kenninghall Palace was alienated to the crown, by the attainder of Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk; and was immediately conferred, by King Henry the Eighth, on his daughter, the Princess Mary. This lady often resided here: and Queen Elizabeth also made it one of her summer seats. It was afterwards restored to the Howard family, and continued to be their chief residence in the county till about the middle of the seventeenth century, when it was pulled down, and the materials sold. The vestiges of this seat of royalty, this ducal residence, whence hospitality had flowed in most copious streams, watering and fructifying the surrounding country; can only now be traced by the arms of Arundel and Howard, which appear upon the bricks, scattered through the walls of the village buildings. The Church, situated upon a hill, has a large square tower at the west end, with the crest of Norfolk upon the buttresses. The village, in 1736, consisted of 114 houses, and 700 inhabitants; and, by the returns made to government in 1800, the number of houses was 202, and its population 1052. The place is now the property of William Pawlett, Esq.

SOUTH LOPHAM, a small village, in the south-east corner of the hundred, has a good church, in the conventual form; the handsome

handsome tower of which, though the body and chancel appear of later date, was built by William Bigod, about the time he conferred it on the monks of Thetford. This place is remarkable among the vulgar for three wonders, two of which are geological curiosities: 1. *The self-grown stile,* which is a tree, naturally formed to answer this purpose; 2. The *ox-foot stone,* a large pebble, on which is an impression resembling that made by an ox's foot, evidently the exuvial mark of some bivalve shell, once imbedded in the fossil; 3. *Lopham Ford,* at which place the rivers Waveney and Little Ouse take their rise. Though at their source, the space which divides them is but nine feet of ground, yet these "disagreeing brethren," as Spelman terms them, instantly turn their backs upon each other, and take different routes to the same sea. The former passes eastward by Diss to Yarmouth; and the latter in a contrary direction to Thetford, and thence to Lynn; forming nearly the whole of the river boundary to the western side of the county.

QUIDDENHAM. In the church of this village, which is a small building, having a tower *circular* at bottom, and octangular at top, is a chapel, or chantry, belonging to the *Holland** family, a branch of which took its name from the division of Holland, in Lincolnshire. Sir Ralph Holland, by the gallant defence he made, in conjunction with the Welles's, and the Lord of Kyme, obtained a grant of the Norman Conqueror, to keep possession of all his heritable property. Among the monuments to this distinguished family, is a mural one in the chancel, with the following inscription:

"SIR JOHN HOLLAND, who erected this monument 17 years before his death, maryed the Lady Alathea Sandys. He was sent a commissioner from the parliament to K. C. the First, and received

* In a pedigree of the family, ending 1601, collected by Thomas Holland, it appears, that the Hollands resided at *Estoven Hall,* "withoute alteration or change, eyther of house, or name, by XIIIth descent before the Conquest." Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. I. p. 343.

received marks of his royal favour. He lived an honour, as well as benefactor to his family; being eminent for his particular abilities and integrity, and dyed 19th of Jan. 1700, after he was created baronet 72 yeares, and in the 98th yeare of his age."

QUIDDENHAM HALL, the seat of the last male branch of the Holland family in Norfolk, was sold by a sister of Sir William Holland, Bart. to Mr. Bristol, a Portuguese merchant; of whom it was purchased, with the manor, by the late Earl of Albermarle, who was commander in chief of the British forces at the reduction of the Havannah, in the year 1762. He greatly improved the park and grounds by numerous plantations; and rendered it a place of some celebrity for picturesque scenery and rural beauty.

The Seat now belongs to the Earl of Albermarle, whose principal residence is at *Elden Hall*, in the county of Suffolk.

## EAST HARLING,

Or MARKET HARLING, takes the above discriminating appellation from lying eastward of two villages of the same name in the hundred. These, in the time of Edward the Confessor, formed one manor, which belonged to Ketel, a free Dane. This town was possessed by that part of the family of Bigod, which took the name of Felbrigg, in the time of Henry the Third. In the year 1361, it came into the possession of the family of *Harling*, who previously derived their name from the place. John de Harling had free-warren allowed him in this manor; and being a good soldier, and, as was usual at that period, well skilled, both in military and naval affairs, "he had the custody of the sea-water at Bristol;" that is, the command of the Bristol Channel and the coast of Wales, given to him during the royal pleasure, in the year 1342. He left by will an injunction, that at his funeral the *best horse* in his stud should be led before the corpse, and left at the

the church, as a *mortuary* for the officiating priest. *Sir Robert Harling*, Knight, was a distinguished warrior in the time of our victorious Henry the Fifth. He took, by assault, the city of Meaux, and subsequently spent the remainder of his life in extending the fame of his native country: but, like most of the devotees to military glory, he spurned the idea of a natural death; and, gratified in his wish of terminating his career on the 'champ de Mars,' he fell, while bravely defending the city of *Paris*, in the year 1435. He was brought home, and buried in St. Mary's Chapel, at Harling, under an altar tomb. His daughter Anne, married, for her second husband, Sir Robert Wingfield, Knt. comptroller of the household to King Edward the Fourth. Being a favorite at court, he obtained for the town of Harling a charter for two annual fairs, and a weekly market, to be held every Tuesday; which are still kept according to the original grant. From the Harlings the manor descended to the family of Lovells. *Sir Thomas Lovell*, knight of the garter, when only an esquire, was, in the year 1485, made chancellor of the exchequer *for life;* and was allowed forty marks per annum, as esquire of the king's body. At the battle of Stoke he was created a knight-banneret, and afterwards installed knight of the garter. In 1502, he was appointed treasurer of the royal household, and president of the council. He was one of the executors to the will of King Henry the Seventh; held several high places of trust under Henry the Eighth; founded Halliwell Nunnery, Shoreditch; erected the entrance gateway to Lincoln's-Inn, London; and built *East Harling Hall*, which has long since been dilapidated.

The *Church*, a handsome, uniform building, consists of a nave, two ailes, chancel, and a quadrangular tower, surmounted by a small spire. It is said to have been erected by Sir William Chamberlain, Knt. about the year 1449. The parapet wall of the tower is *balustraded*, instead of being *embattled*. In Harling chapel are various tombs for the Harling family, and for other persons who have been connected with them by marriage.

In

In the windows, are numerous figures and arms in stained glass. The chancel window is glazed with ancient glass, which formerly belonged to Harling Hall: it contains several figures representing passages in the New Testament; and beneath, in a supplicating posture, are the effigies of Sir Robert Wingfield and his lady.

Harling was famous formerly for the manufacture and sale of linen, yarn, and cloth; but at present it is destitute of, what may be termed, trade. In the year 1706, the number of inhabitants was 401; and by the population returns of 1800, the town then contained 93 houses, and 674 persons.

RUSHFORD, or *Rushworth*, so called from the place abounding with rushes, and having a ford over the river Ouse, on which it is situated, had a *College* founded in the time of King Edward the Third, for a master, and five brethren or chaplains, by Sir Edmund Gonvile, whom Speed calls parson of Rushworth. This collegiate institution was further endowed in the reign of Richard the Second, by Sir Robert Wingfield, and Anne his wife, the heiress of the founder. The annual revenues were valued at the dissolution, according to Dugdale and Speed, at 85l. 15s. 0½d.

The site of the college, impropriation of the church, manor, and estates, were granted to the Earl of Surrey, to be held by knight's service in capite of the king. Reverting to the crown, they were re-granted to Lord Howard of Walden, who obtained a licence to sell them to Robert Buxton, Esq.; and they are now vested in the hands of *Sir Robert Buxton, Bart.* who has a handsome seat in this parish, called

SHADWELL LODGE. This mansion was erected by the proprietor's grandfather, who was an excellent architect, and built several handsome edifices in this county; among which one good specimen is *Bixley Hall.* His son, John Buxton, Esq. made an extensive piece of water, laid out various pleasure grounds, and decorated the country, previously naked and barren, with numerous

rous ornamental plantations; and enriched it by many agricultural improvements.

SNAREHILL LODGE, the residence of Henry Redhead, Esq. is a respectable modern seat. Near this are twelve large barrows, known by the name of the *Seven Hills;* one of which, called *Tut-hill,* is much larger than either of the rest. At this place, it is said, a dreadful battle was fought between King Edmund, and Ingwar, the Danish general, in the year 870; of which the following account is given in the abbreviated life of the former, preserved in the Register of Curteys. In the fifteenth year of King Edmund's reign, the Danes again visited East-Anglia, to revenge themselves on that monarch. During that predatory inroad, they burnt the monasteries of Crowland, Thorney, Peterborough, Ramsey, Soham, and Ely, destroying most of the religious occupants. Ubba, being left in Cambridgeshire, to protect the collected spoils, Ingwar proceeded with his army to besiege Theodford, then a royal residence of the East-Anglian princes. Having forced an entry, he gave his soldiers free booty; who put most of the inhabitants to the sword, and reduced the city to ashes. Edmund, who was then at *Eglesden,* a village now called *Hoxne,* in Suffolk, received an insulting offer from the Danish leader, purporting, that if the king would renounce Christianity, and consent to worship Scandinavian idols, Ingwar would agree, that Edmund and himself should share the spoils of the kingdom. This roused the timid monarch to march against the enemy. The armies met near Thetford, and after great slaughter on both sides, a drawn battle ensued. The spirit of Edmund was subdued, and he made the fatal resolution never to encounter the Pagans again; who, taking advantage of his pusillanimity, seized on his person, bound him in close fetters, and, after scourging him, &c. cut off his head, Nov. 20, 870*.

SHROPHAM

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. I. p. 290. See an interesting account of this battle, &c. in Turner's History of the Anglo-Saxons, Vol. I. p. 237 &c. 4to. edit.

## SHROPHAM HUNDRED

is situated to the north of that of Guiltcross, from which it is separated by a small stream. This joins the Little Ouse near Thetford, and has been called the *Thet*, by some writers; but Blomefield remarks that he could not find any authority for the name. The fee of Shropham hundred was vested, at the Conquest, in the crown. In the time of Edward the First, A. D. 1285, that monarch issued a writ of *quo warranto* against Robert de Tateshale, to declare, by what right he held any part of this lordship; who answered, that he possessed it, jointly, with Roger de Montealt, and others, of the inheritance of Hugh de Albany, who was supposed to have obtained it from the first Norman monarch.

The sum raised for the maintenance of the poor of this district, in the year ending at Easter 1803, was 4,193l. 19s. 10¼d.; being an average of four shillings and five-pence three-farthings in the pound rate.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Attleburgh*, *Besthorpe*, *Brettenham*, *Bridgham*, *Buckenham* New, *Buckenham* Old, *Eccles*, *Ellingham* Great, *Hargham*, *Hockham*, *Illington*, *Kilverstone*, *Larling*, *Rocklands* All Saints, *Rocklands* St. Andrews, *Roudham*, *Shropham*, *Snetterton*, *Wretham* East and West, *Wilby*, and two parishes, *St. Mary's* and *St. Peter's*, in the town of Thetford.

## THETFORD,

A borough and market-town, has been a place of consequence in former times. According to some authors, it was first a British city, and afterwards a Roman station; but the arguments adduced in support of these theories are not very conclusive, for no

decisive evidence has been produced. Camden and Plot place the *Sitomagus* of the Itinerary here, but Gale and Horseley contend that that station was at Woolpit, in the county of Suffolk. In a subsequent volume we shall have an opportunity of speaking more decisively on this point, after having examined the latter place.

At the eastern extremity of Thetford, are some considerable remains of fortifications; consisting of a large artificial mount, or keep; with lofty banks and deep ditches. Camden confessed his inability to decide, whether the former was a Roman or a Saxon work; but it has generally been admitted that such fortifications, as are accompanied by a large *keep*, were first introduced by the Normans. Still, however, the existence of such a keep does not exclusively demonstrate, that the fortified works around it were not of an earlier date. In the numerous strong holds, which are found in various parts of the British isles, several alterations and additions are traceable in many, which were made by the different people whose power had, at times, been predominant. The fortifications here were probably the work of the early kings of East-Anglia, and the keep an addition, made subsequent to the Norman conquest.

"East of the mount is a large area, or place of arms, three hundred feet square, evidently intended for parading the troops employed in its defence. The mount is about one hundred feet in height, and the circumference at the base, nine hundred and eighty-four; its diameter measures three hundred and thirty-eight feet at the base, and eighty-one on its summit, which is dishing, or concave*, upwards of twelve feet below its outer surface,

* This excavation Mr. King compares to the hiding pits, on Mousehold Heath, and to others, in various extensive plains in England and Wales. In opposition to the opinions of Sir Henry Spelman, who, in his Icenia, considered it to have been a Danish work, Mr. King observes, there is much more reason to conclude it must have been originally British, whatever use might have been made of it in succeeding times by Danes or others. Munimenta Antiqua.

surface, owing, probably, to its having been once surrounded by a parrapet, the top whereof may have gradually been melted away by the injuries of time and weather. The slope, or ramp of this mount is extremely steep, forming an angle with the plain of the horizon, of more than forty degrees; and yet no traces remain of any path or steps for the purpose of carrying up machines, or any weighty ammunition. The chief entrance seems to have been on the north side, where, in the second, or inner rampart, a passage is so formed, that troops attempting to enter must have presented their flanks to a double line of the garrison looking down upon them *."

The remaining ramparts are about twenty feet high, and the fossa from sixty to seventy feet wide: the slope or inclination of each vallum forms an angle of forty-five degrees with the plane of the horizon, and, consequently, exhibits a wide crest against the foss.

Thetford, called, in the Saxon chronicle, *Theodford*, has an acknowledged claim of having been once the seat of the East-Anglian kings. Being the metropolis of that portion of the heptarchy which lay open to the north of Europe, it became subject to the ravages of the Danes. After the murder of King Edmund, A. D. 870, those northern marauders, who had previously been in possession of the place fifty years, and then laid it in ashes, were again reinstated by a truce between King Alfred, and the Danish chieftain, Guthrum. In the year 1004, Swain invading East-Anglia, among other places burnt this; and, in 1010, Ulfketel, the Saxon earl, suffering a complete defeat, Thetford was again destroyed. After the truce which was concluded between King Edmund Ironside and Canute, the town, like a phœnix, arose from its ashes. By Domesday-book it appears, that in the time of King Edward, there were in this place, nine hundred and forty-four burgesses, of which the whole, except thirty-six, could put themselves under the protection of whom



* Martin's History of Thetford: in which work is a plan and section.

they pleased, without the royal licence; providing they paid all customs, *heriot* excepted. In the time of the Conqueror, the number of burgesses was reduced to seven hundred and twenty; and the *mansuræ* *, or uninhabited houses, were two hundred and twenty-four. Though in Domesday book no allusion is made to the subject, yet, from numerous coins, it is evident there was a mint at Thetford, from the time of Athelstan to the reign of King John †. In the Conqueror's time, Herfast having removed the episcopal see from North Elmham to Thetford, the latter became the head of the East-Anglian diocese; but, in the succeeding reign, the see was transfered to Norwich.

The ruins of ecclesiastical and other buildings strongly remind the visitor of the ancient splendor of this place. It had, at one period, twenty churches ‡, and eight monasteries, besides other religious and charitable foundations; in consequence of which it obtained the epithets of "*Hierapolis et monachopolis.*" But of these the names only of some remain; and of others, a few dilapidated walls serve to mark their sites. Of the twenty churches three are preserved—St. Peter's, and St. Cuthbert's, on the Norfolk side of the river; and St. Mary the Less, in the county of Suffolk.

ST. PETER'S, commonly called the *black* church, from its being constructed chiefly of flint, consists of a chancel, nave, two ailes, and a tower. The latter was rebuilt in 1789, when a great part of the church was also re-edified. The battlements on the

* Blomefield explains *mansuræ* as though it were written mazures, that is, ruined houses. Essay, &c. Vol. II. p. 45.

† In the table of Saxon coins, contained in Gibson's edit. of Camden, is a coin of *Edmund*, minted at Thetford. Sir Andrew Fountain's Treatise on Anglo-Saxon coins, mentions one of *Canute*, with Thetford on the reverse. And in the Pipe rolls, under the third year of King John's reign, four *monetarii*, or *minters*, are recorded at Thetford.

‡ Blomefield's Essay, Vol. II. p. 60.

the south side, and the buttresses, are decorated with allusive ornaments and large letters, inlaid in the flint work.

THE NUNNERY was founded by *Uvius* the first abbot of St. Edmund's Bury, in the reign of King Canute; in commemoration of the number of persons who fell at Snareshill, near the town, in the sanguinary conflict between King Edmund's army, and the forces under the Danish leaders, Ingwar and Ubba. A few monks were placed in this priory, which was then considered as a *cell* to Bury abbey. In the year 1176, the monks having been reduced to two, by the request of the Abbot of Bury, resigned, and he placed in their stead a convent of nuns, who had previously resided at Lynn. At the Dissolution, the annual revenues, according to Speed, amounted to 50l. 9s. 8d.; which, with the site, were granted to Sir Richard Fulmerston, to be held by knight's service in capite of the king. Sir Richard made this house his residence. Afterwards it was let to a farmer, and some years since the greater part was taken down. A new farm-house has lately been built of the materials, and the conventual church converted into a barn. Some of the walls, with buttresses, windows, &c. still remain.

THE PRIORY, or ABBEY, first erected on the Suffolk side of the town, in the church-yard of the cathedral, was removed to a more convenient spot, on the margin of the river, and was founded by Roger Bigod, for monks of the Cluniac order, in the year 1104. This was a peculiarly privileged house, for other Cluniac monasteries were subject to have their revenues seized, on a war breaking out between England and France, because being dependant on the abbey of Clugny, in Burgundy, the monks were considered, in law, as foreigners; but the religious persons of this monastery were naturalized in the time of King Edward the Third, subsequently reputed *indiginæ*, and treated as other subjects of the realm. The monastery was suppressed in the year 1540; when the revenues, which annually were valued at 312l. 14s. 4½d. according to Dugdale, were granted, excepting a small reserved

rent, to the Duke of Norfolk, and are at present the property of Lord Petre. The ancient gateway, constructed of free-stone and black flint, with parts of the church, &c. still remains *. This monastery had been the burial-place of the several noble families which had successively borne the title of Earls of Norfolk, and also contained numerous monuments of the Bigods, Mowbrays, and Howards. After the Dissolution, many of the mortuary remains were removed to Framlingham.

St. Austin's Friary was founded by *John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster*, in the reign of King Richard the Second, A. D. 1387, for *Friars mendicants* of the *Augustine order*. The site, granted to Sir Richard Fulmerston, is still called the *Friars' Close*.

The Monastery of St. Sepulchre was founded in the year 1109, by *William, Earl of Warren and Surrey*, who, going on a crusade soon afterwards, recommended the protection of his new institution to his brother *palmers* †. It was appropriated to canons of the Augustine order, and was additionally endowed by King Henry the Second, and by other benefactors. At the suppression, it appears to have been seized of annual revenues to the amount of 82l. 6s. The site is called *Canons*; and part of the conventual church, still standing, has long been converted into a barn. The gate of the porter's lodge, and some other parts of the buildings, still remain.

Of four other religious houses, no vestiges remain.

Domus Dei, or *Maison de Dieu*, which stood at the corner of Canon's Close, was founded by William Rufus, or the Earl Warren in that monarch's reign. John Earl Warren granted it to

* A view of this is annexed.

† In the original it is "palmiferis fratribus meis." Palmers were pilgrims, or soldiers, who had served in the crusade to the Holy Land, and were so called because they usually brought home, from Palestine, a palm branch, which they wore as a badge of distinction. Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. II. p. 96, note.

to the Prior of Thetford, to find two chaplains to pray for the soul of the founder, and to furnish lodging and food, during the space of forty weeks, annually, for three poor men; who were to receive every night a loaf of rye-bread, weighing as heavy as two-and-fifty shillings sterling, and one herring; or, in case of a scarcity of herrings, then two eggs, in lieu of each herring: three beds were likewise to be provided, and water for washing the pilgrim's feet.

On the Suffolk side of the river, near St. Mary's church, is a FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—In the year 1566, Sir Richard Fulmerston bequeathed by will certain property, to remunerate a priest for preaching four times in the year at the parish church of St. Mary, and for the purpose of erecting a free-school, with dwelling-houses for a master and usher, who were to receive adequate salaries; and a habitation for two poor men and two poor women, who were to be allowed weekly pensions. The benevolent intentions of the donor, however, were not carried into effect till the time of King James the First; when, upon a petition of the townsmen, it was enacted by the authority of parliament, that there should be for ever a free grammar-school and hospital; and that the master of the school, who should be the preacher, according to the will of the testator, usher, and the four poor people, should be a body politic, under the title of "The master and fellows of the school and hospital at Thetford, founded by King James the First, according to the will of Sir Richard Fulmerston, Knt."—Dr. Caius, in his History of Cambridge, conjectures, that the school, which Sigebert, king of East-Anglia, set up after his return from France, and mentioned by Bede, was erected here. That a seminary for learned and religious instruction, was early established in the metropolis of the East-Anglian dominions, is highly probable; but no notice occurs prior to the year 1329; when it appears, by the Episcopal Institutions, that John de Mordon was collated to the mastership by the bishop.

Thetford, though a very ancient burgh, is comparatively a modern corporation. In the time of the Conqueror, the town was governed by a præpositus*, and other inferior officers. The town, from not being a free burgh, at times suffered greatly by the oppressions of the officers nominated by the crown. But in the year 1573, Queen Elizabeth granted a charter, by which a mayor, ten aldermen, and twenty common-councilmen, a recorder, town-clerk, sword-bearer, and two serjeants at mace, constitute the corporation. The mayor, during his mayoralty, is clerk of the market, and the following year officiates as coroner. The corporation had also permission to send two burgesses to parliament, "provided they were discreet and honest men; and were elected at the expence of the borough†." This charter was surrendered to the crown in the thirty-fourth year of King Charles the Second, and in lieu of it a very imperfect one obtained. But in the year 1692, an order was procured from the Court of Chancery, for taking off the file, cancelling the surrender, and procuring a transcript of the charter, granted in the reign of Elizabeth; by which the town is at present governed.

This place has been honoured with the presence of many of our sovereigns, particularly Henry the First and Henry the Second. Several charters, granted by the former monarch, bear date at Thetford. When the manor fell with the duchy of Lancaster, of which it formed a parcel, to the crown, the ancient seat of the Earls Warren became the royal palace. This was rebuilt in the time of Queen Elizabeth, who occasionally resided here. King James the First made it one of his hunting seats; but having been disgusted with the abrupt remonstrance of a farmer

* The chief magistrate was called *consul*, which Blomefield, and, after him, the author of Domesday Book Illustrated, interpreted *earl*; although *consul* and *consulatus* are evidently distinct in their application, from *comes* and *comitatus*, in the Norman Survey.

† Martin's History of Thetford, p. 237.

farmer in the vicinity, over whose lands the king and his retinue had been hunting *, he gave the palace to Sir Philip Wodehouse: it has been rebuilt, and is now the property of a private gentleman; but still bears the appellation of "*the King's House.*"

THE OLD GUILDHALL, or council-house, being in a dilapidated condition, Sir Joseph Williamson, Knight, one of the principal secretaries of state to King Charles the Second, erected at his own expence, the present council-chamber, and the apartment for the juries.

Thetford has heen much improved within the last fourteen years. A new bridge has been built, the principal street paved, and several handsome houses have been erected. The navigation of the river has lately been repaired, and, by this communication, some little mercantile business is done in the corn and coal trade, by way of Lynn †. It has two annual fairs, and a market weekly on Saturdays; but, compared with its former greatness, is now a very inconsiderable place, containing 492 houses, and 2,146 inhabitants.

In the vicinity of Thetford have been discovered various extraneous fossils, particularly cockle-shells, or *cardii;* and button-fish, or *echinitæ*. Ray mentions a petrified *curlew* found here, anterior to the year 1674. Some years ago, in digging a marle-pit at Elveden, a perfect *nautilus* was found, which was deposited in the British Museum. Near Thetford is a *mineral* spring, the waters of which appear to possess considerable virtues, though their celebrity has by no means been commensurate with their acknowledged efficacy.

Among

* It is said, that the farmer brought an action of trespass, and insisted upon unreasonable damages. Blomefield's Essay, Vol. II. p. 140.

† In the reign of Charles the Second, an act of parliament was obtained to make the river navigable from Lynn to Thetford, the navigation previously having extended no further than to a place called White-house, near Brandon ferry. In the reign of his late majesty, commissioners were appointed to execute the statute of Charles the Second.

Among the few writers and distinguished persons which this place can claim, as her sons, may be reckoned, THOMAS MARTIN, F.A.S. an antiquary, and author of the History of Thetford. He was born, March 8, 1696-7, at the school-house in St. Mary's, of which parish his father, the Rev. William Martin, was many years rector. Thomas was the seventh of nine children, and received his education in the grammar-school of his native place. He was articled to his brother, who was an attorney. He married early, when the care of a large family naturally engaged his attention; and, though, on a second marriage with the widow of Peter Le Neve, he came into possession of considerable property, with a large collection of antiquities, valuable manuscripts, prints, books, &c.; yet his want of attention to frugality and economy, constantly kept him in an embarrassed state; and, dying poor, March 7, 1771, he was interred near others of his family in the church porch of Palgrave, Suffolk; at which place he had resided many years. He left a character for strict integrity, and, while living, was usually distinguished by the name of "*Honest Tom Martin of Palgrave.*"

THOMAS PAINE, of political notoriety, was a native of this place, where he received the usual routine of education at the free grammar-school. His literary works, entitled "*The Rights of Man,*"—"*Common Sense,*"—"*The Age of Reason,*" &c. have passed through several editions; and being published at a time when the revolution of France had excited an extraordinary ferment in the public mind, and being written in a peculiarly popular style, and with much freedom of thought and expression, they were eminently calculated to produce a revolution in this kingdom, had not Mr. Pitt suppressed the first pamphlet by act of parliament. In consequence of which the work is now rarely seen, and will hereafter be sought for among the literary curiosities of the age.

ATTLEBOROUGH,

## ATTLEBOROUGH, OR ATTLEBURGH,

was formerly a market-town, and a place of considerable consequence, but the former privilege is lost, and the latter character has partly subsided with it. Spelman, in his Icenia, has properly remarked, that *burgh*, or *borough*, as the termination of a name of any place, indicates that it had once a castle, or fortification; from which Blomefield conjectures *At-le-burgh* may mean the town *at the burgh**. But the more probable derivation is that of Mr. Le Neve, who supposes the present name an abbreviation of *Athelingburgh*; which it might have received from some Saxon nobleman, or prince, who had his residence here. This supposition corresponds with a story, related in a manuscript written by John Brame, a monk of Thetford.

In the year 841, Offa, King of East-Anglia, passing through Germany, on his return from the Holy Land, intended to pay a visit to his cousin Alkmund, King of Saxony, whom he had previously called on, but being taken ill at a place called *St. George's arm* he summoned a council, and appointed *Edmund*, son of Alkmund, his successor to the throne of East-Anglia. On the death of Offa, a deputation was sent from the East-Angles to Edmund, who, landing at Hunstanton, proceeded to *Atleburgh*, where the last king had resided in retirement and devotion. It thus appears to have been a place of repute during the Saxon era, and was, doubtless, fortified to prevent the devastations of the prædatory Danes. The fortifications † are said to have been conspicuous in the time of Henry the Second; for William *de Fossato de Atlebure*, who lived there at that period, and his descendants, are, in old writings, frequently distinguished

* Essay, &c. Vol. I. p. 501.

† Not the smallest vestiges are now traceable.

distinguished by the addition of '*Atle the Dyke*,' instead of *de Atlebure**."

This place formerly belonged to the Mortimers, who have been stated as descendants of the celebrated lords Mortimers, of Wigmore, in the county of Hereford†. But what militates against such an extraction is, the arms of the two families having been invariably different. Those of the Norfolk family being the ancient arms of France, with the exception of the *collor*, viz. *Or semi de fleures-de-lis sable*. The first of the family, who settled in this county, was *Robert de Mortimer*, who lived in the reign of King John‡. From the Mortimers it descended, by marriage, to the family of *Ratcliffe*, of whom it was purchased by Sir Francis Blickley, Bart. whose descendent sold it to the family of *Ash*.

A COLLEGE, dedicated to the Holy Cross, in some records called *Attleburgh Chantry*, was founded here by Sir Robert de Mortimer, in the time of Richard the Second, for a custos and four fellows. The former was to have an annual stipend of sixty shillings, and each fellow forty shillings, and a cloth suit, or in lieu, ten shillings. To pay this and other expences, the founder endowed it with the sum of two thousand marks. The annual revenues, according to Dugdale, were, at the Dissolution, 21l. 16s. 3d. But the value, as appears from Mr. Le Neve's collections, was 50l. 6s. 4d. The *Church* is in the collegiate form, with an ancient square tower at the intersection of the transept. The east end is destroyed, and the remains shew a large nave, with its ailes; a north and south transept, and a handsome porch on the north side§. Many persons of distinction

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. I, p. 503.

† "Magna Britannia, &c. Vol. III. p. 340.

‡ Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. I, f. 144.

§ The accompanying print exhibits the church, from the N. W. angle, and it will be seen that the central western window is large and handsome.

tion lie buried in this church, particularly some of the Mortimer and Ratcliffe families*. Mural monuments, with Latin inscriptions, perpetuate the memory also of several of the Blickley family.

A flat stone in the nave records the name, &c. of CAPTAIN JOHN GIBBS, who died in the forty-eighth year of his age, October 22, 1695. He was a celebrated *horse-racer* and *gamester*, in the reign of Charles the Second. Mr. Le Neve styles him the *famous* Captain Gibbs. "He laid a wager of 500l. that he drove his light chaise and four horses up and down the steepest place of the *Devil's Ditch*, on Newmarket Heath; which he performed, by making a very light chaise with a *jointed perch*, and without any pole, to the surprise of all the spectators."

By the road-side, near Attleborough, a square stone pillar is thus inscribed:—"This pillar was erected by order of the sessions of the peace for Norfolk, as a grateful remembrance of the charity of *Sir Edward Rich, Knt.* who freely gave the sum of 200l. towards the repair of the highway between Wymondham and Attleburgh, A. D. 1675." This is said to be the *first turnpike* road made in the kingdom. The act passed in the seventh and eighth years of William the Third.

OLD BUCKENHAM takes its name, according to Camden, from the Saxon word *bucken*, which signifies beech-trees; numbers of which, he supposes, formerly grew near this place: but Blomefield, more probably, supposes it *Buckham*, from the woods having abounded with *deer*. The fee of this place was given by the Conqueror to William de Albini; whose eldest son and successor, William, was commonly called "*William with the strong hand*," because, among other exploits, he is said to have killed a lion; respecting which a story is told that shews many of the romantic relations in the age of chivalry, were equally ridiculous with the legendary trumpery of preceding

* Weever's Ancient Funeral Monuments, &c. p. 534.

ceding ages*. From the *Tateshales* it descended to the distinguished family of the *Knevets.*

At this place was a *Castle,* in the time of the Conquest, situated on the eastern side of the Abbey; the site of which includes an area of about three acres. It was a large square intrenchment; and the ramparts are still entire, surrounded by a moat. The structure was taken down, and the materials used for building a monastery.

THE PRIORY, now called the ABBEY, was erected by William de Albini, or Albany, surnamed the *Strong*, in the reign of Henry the Second, for Black Canons of the *Augustine* order. The annual revenues at the Dissolution were valued, according to Speed, at 131l. 11s.; and the site granted to Sir Thomas Knevet. Few of the ruins remain; but the form of the conventual church may yet be traced.

At the end of the yearly account of the outgoings belonging to this monastery for the year 1487, are these lines; which appear intended to account for certain items of expenditure, that could not be decorously placed before the *lay* auditor.

> " Omnibus omnia mea sompnia dicere possum,
> Si vis esse sanus, sæpe lavare manus.
> Dum sumus in mundo, vivamus corde jocundo,
> Omnibus est notum, *quod aliquis diligit potum.*"

BUCKENHAM ST. ANDREW'S HALL, is the seat of Lord Petre. The house is not large, but the park is a very ancient inclosure; for the founder of the monastery above described, among other donations, granted to the monks the privilege of cutting wood in his park of Buckenham. And in the year 1242, King Henry the Third issued his writ to those who had custody of lands belonging to Hugh de Albany, Earl of Arundel, that they should deliver to Robert de Tateshale *two bucks,* as a gift of the king, out of the said Hugh's park †.

NEW

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. I. p. 370. † Ibid, 381.

## NEW BUCKENHAM

Arose out of the decay of Old Buckenham. William de Albini, disliking the site of the old castle, had the buildings taken down; and having procured a piece of ground from the Bishop of Norwich, erected a castle more to the eastward, and founded his new burgh, thence called *New Buckenham*. The structure was pleasantly situated upon a hill, and consisted of a keep, two circular towers, a grand entrance-tower, barbican, and embattled walls; and the whole was surrounded by a moat, which was filled with water. The principal buildings are demolished, nothing remaining except a few ruins of the gate-way and keep; all traces of the intrenchments having been obliterated by the plough.—William de Albini obtained a licence for his new town to be considered a burgh, with the privileges of frank-pledge, assize of bread and ale, a gallows, a weekly market on Saturdays, and the liberty to hold a *mercate court*.

The *Church*, dedicated to St. Martin, stands on the north side of the town. Over the west door are carved, in free-stone, the arms of several noble and distinguished persons, who have been interred within its walls, particularly of the Knevets; which, Camden says, was an ancient family ever since *Sir John Knevet* was lord chancellor of England, in the time of King Edward the Third. On a flat stone in this church were the effigies of him and his lady, in brass, with this inscription:—

"*Orate pro animabus Johannes Knevet, armigeri, & Alesiæ, uxoris suæ, qui ob.* 1400."

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## FOREHOE HUNDRED,

situated to the north-east of Shropham, takes the name from *four hills*, which lie in the parish of Carl ton, on the south side of

of the road leading from Norwich to Hingham, where the hundred-court used to be held. It was called the *Hundred and Half* of Forehoe, and belonged to the crown.

This hundred is about thirteen miles in length, and of various breadths, from three to seven miles; comprehending an extensive track of fertile and highly improved lands. With Mitford, Forehoe forms the deanery of Hingham, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk. The sum raised in the year 1803, for the maintenance of the poor, was 6,901l. 16s. 5¼d.; being an average of three shillings and eleven-pence in the pound-rate *.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Barford, Barnham Broom, Bawburgh, Bawthorpe, Brandon Parva, Carlton Forehoe, Colton, Costessy, Coston, Crownthorpe, Deopham, Easton, Hackford, Hingham, Honingham, Kimberley, Marlingford, Morley St. Botolph, Morley St. Peter, Runhall, Wellborne, Wicklewood, Wramplingham, and Wymondham.*

## WYMONDHAM,

or *Windham*, is a market-town, pleasantly situated nine miles distant from Norwich, on the great road to London. This place has been supposed to be of Roman origin; and, without the smallest traces to countenance such an opinion, some have considered it the *Sitomagus* of the Itinerary. The name is purely *Saxon*, and the consequence of the place arose from the erection of a monastery here, in the time of Henry the First, A. D. 1130, by

* All the parishes of this hundred, except Honingham, were incorporated by an act which passed in the sixteenth year of the present reign; and a house of industry was erected in the parish of Wicklewood, in the year 1776. The concerns of the poor are managed by twenty-four directors and twenty-four acting guardians, who grant relief in or out of the house, at their discretion. The paupers in the house are not *farmed*, and they consist principally of children, and persons, who are incapacitated for labor by age or infirmity. "Abstract of returns," &c. p. 326.

by William de Albini *, who amply endowed it with lands; which endowment was confirmed, and additional lands and privileges annexed by the reigning monarch. Among other benefactions the king granted to the monastery all *wrecks* on that part of the coast lying between Eccles, Happisburgh, and Tunstede: and a rent in kind of two thousand eels annually, from the village of *Elingeya*, now Helgay. From the register of St. Alban's the religious house here appears, originally, to have been founded as a *cell for Black Monks* of the *Augustine order*, and its annual revenues, as valued at the Dissolution, amounted, according to Dugdale, to 211l. 16s. 6d. By the inquisition, made at that period, the monastery was found in a *regular* state, no crimes were laid to the charge of the abbot, who, therefore, had an allowance for life of 66l. 13s. 4d. per annum; and the monks were *blameless*, except *four*, who, according to the *report*, acknowledged themselves guilty of incontinency.

The abbey church was a large handsome cruciform building, erected soon after the year 1130, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary and *Thomas à Becket*. The structure consisted of a choir, nave, transept, north and south ailes, with a tower standing in the centre, still called the abbey steeple, and another at the west end. When the monastery was destroyed, the south aile, over which were lodgings for supernumerary monks, was demolished. But the king granted the inhabitants land to build another. Anxious to save their noble church, they also obtained the following parts which had been condemned by the act for removing superstitious buildings.



* The mode in which the manor of Happisburgh was conveyed to the religious of this house is deserving notice. The livery was made by a *cross of silver*, which contained certain venerable reliques, viz. part of the cross on which the Saviour suffered, part of the manger at Bethlehem, part of the sepulchre of the Blessed Virgin, a gold ring, and a silver chalice for the Eucharist, in form of a sphere, and all done in the presence of the founder's sons, *William*, *Nigel*, and *Oliver*.

The abbey steeple, vestry, monks' lodgings over the south aile, St. Margaret's chapel, the chapel of the Blessed Virgin, the chapel of St. Thomas à Becket, and the choir: these were granted on condition that the inhabitants paid the king for the *lead* at the rate of four pounds per fodder, of twenty-four square feet. The whole, consisting of "seventeen fodder and thirty-one feet," was paid for; and the timber of the roof belonging to the chapter-house, and some stone, glass, &c. fit for erecting the new aile, &c. were given into the bargain *. But the pious design was frustrated by the sacrilegious injustice of Mr. Serjeant *Flowerdew*, who demolished the choir and sold the materials; upon which the people took down the residuary buildings, and contented themselves with erecting the new aile. The present church consists of a nave with ailes, a large western tower, and another at the intersection of the nave, with the transepts. The ancient parts of the building display semi-circular arches, with short columns, large piers, &c. which appear to be parts of the original structure. At the east end, and on the south side of the church, are some fragments of walls. The north aile, porch, and towers, are of a much later style than the nave and south aile. Altogether the church is an interesting and curious pile; presenting to the architectural antiquary and draughtsman much to admire and delineate. Here is a large *font*, ornamented with bold sculpture, and elevated on steps.

In the choir was buried, the founder, who died, A. D. 1156, upon whose tomb was this inscription:—

> "Hunc *pincerna* locum fundavit et hic jacet, illa
> Quæ dedit huic domui, jam sine fine tenet."

Here lie also many of the *Albini's*, earls of Arundel, and some of the Clifton family. A gentleman was interred here, named *None*, who not having been, according to expectation, liberal to the

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. II. p. 521.

the convent, one of the monks wrote this pointed distich to his memory:—

"Hic situs est *Nullus*, quia nullo nullior iste,
Et quia *Nullus* erat de nullo nil tibi Christe*."

Here lyeth *None*, who worse than *none* was thought;
For being *None*, of *none* to Christ gave *nought*.

Many of the Knevet family were also interred here. Several *guilds* belonged to the church, the property of which having been seized by the crown, part of it was appropriated, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, for founding a school, and for other pious uses.

The town contains several liberties, which are called the *in-soken* divisions; and the parish, which is very extensive, comprehends several hamlets, denominated the *outsoken* division.

Wymondham is principally inhabited by manufacturers, who are employed in various branches of weaving; in making spindles, tops, and other articles of wooden-ware.

This place gave name to the distinguished family of WYNDHAM, or WINDHAM, which has ramified into several branches, viz, the Wyndhams of Wiltshire, Somersetshire, and Glamorganshire; and of Felbrigge, Cromar, and Earsham, in this county. In the year 1293, WILLIAM DE WIMUNDHAM was overseer of the silver-mines in Devonshire, and held other offices in the exchequer. He was well skilled in chemistry and metallurgy; and that year he extracted two hundred and seventy pounds of fine silver from the portion of lead ore, which King Edward the First gave as a dower with his daughter Eleanor, on her marriage with the Count de Barr. The succeeding year he procured five hun-



* Weever, in his ancient funeral monuments, cites a similar specimen:—

"Hic recubat *Nullus*, nullo de sanguine cretus
Nullus apud vivos, *Nullus* apud superos.

*None* lyeth here of lineage *None* descended,
Amongst men *None*, *None* 'mongst the saints befriended."

dred and twenty pounds of silver, which was coined in London; and the next year, miners from Derbyshire having been sent to assist the Devonians, Mr. Wimundham sent seven hundred pounds of silver to the Mint. Sir William Wyndham was sheriff of Norfolk, A. D. 1549*. The two insurgents, the KETTS, were natives of this town, and carried on the business of tanning. Of the deplorable insurrection to which they were leaders, an account has been already given. Robert, the elder brother, was hanged in chains on the castle at Norwich; and William, upon the high steeple of the church here.

KIMBERLY HALL, the seat of *Lord Wodehouse*†, stands in the hamlet of Downham and parish of Wymondham, though the park is in that of *Kimberly*. The seat anciently belonged to the family of Fastolff, and stood on the west side of the village of Kimberley; but Sir John Wodehouse, who possessed it in the reign of King Henry the Fourth, took it down, and erected on the east part a noble mansion, where the family resided till the year 1659; when, Sir Philip Wodehouse having demolished it, removed to the present seat. This was erected by the late Sir John Wodehouse, to which four rooms, one at each angle of the house, were added by the late Sir Armine Wodehouse, who also made

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. II. p. 533.

† This family, which has long been settled in Norfolk, derives its descent through a succession of *knights*, with little interruption, from the time of *Henry the First*. In that reign *Sir Constantine Wodehouse* married Isabel, daughter and heiress of the Botetorts. John Wodehouse was gentleman of the privy-chamber to King Henry the Fourth, and attended that monarch into France, where he so distinguished himself at the battle of Agincourt, that the king granted him an augmentation to his arms, with leave to bear as a motto, "AGINCOURT," and appointed him steward of the Duchy of Lancaster, in the county of Norfolk, with a salary of ten pounds per ann. Kimber's Baronetage of England, Vol. I. p. 72. Sir John Wodehouse having represented Norfolk in two parliaments, was created *Baron* Wodehouse, October 26, 1797.

made several other improvements. The house, which is built of brick, contains many convenient rooms, a spacious library, and offices detached. It is situated in an extensive and beautiful park, richly ornamented with wood and water. A lake, comprising about twenty-eight acres, apparently environing a large *carr*, or wood of venerable *oaks*, on the western side, forms a delightful view from the house; while, to the north-west, the rivulet, which forms the boundary of a fine lawn, is converted into a serpentine river, issuing from the lake. In the house is preserved a fine portrait of *Vandyck*, painted by *himself*, when young.

## HINGHAM

is a small town, having a market weekly on Saturdays. It was anciently part of the possessions belonging to the *Marshals*, afterwards Earls of Pembroke. From them it came to the Morleys, and thence to the Wodehouses, in which family it is at present vested.

The Church is a handsome structure, and has a large and lofty tower. It was rebuilt by Remigius de Hethersete, rector here, aided by the munificence of the patron, John Le Marshal, in the reign of Edward the Third. Several chapels and numerous images decorated the interior prior to the Reformation.

Trinity Chapel, which had a window of fine stained glass, was, according to local tradition, erected at the expence of some spirited young ladies of the town. But the *window* only, more probably, was a female donation, as appears from a mutilated inscription, which Blomefield read in the glass thus:—"Thys wyndow ys ye *mayden* cost of Hengham."—This seems to confirm the conjecture.

On the north side of the chancel is a noble canopied monument, reaching from the floor to the roof, richly decorated with stone imagery and tracery; and though many of the brasses are gone, from the arms remaining, it appears to have been erected

to the memory of Thomas Lord Morley, who died in the time of Henry the Sixth*.

In 1605, Robert Peck was rector of this church, who "was a man of a very violent schismatical spirit: he pulled down the rails, and levelled the altar, and the whole chancel a foot below the church, as it remains to this day; but being prosecuted for it by Bishop Wren, he fled the kingdom, and went over into New England with many of his parishioners, who sold their estates for half their value, and conveyed all their effects to that new plantation; erected a town and colonie by the name of HINGHAM, where many of their posterity are still remaining. He promised never to desert them; but hearing that *bishops* were *deposed*, he left them all to shift for themselves, and came back to Hingham, in the year 1646; and after ten years voluntary banishment, he resumed his rectory, and died in 1656†."

SIR RALPH DE HINGHAM, KNT., was justice of the King's Bench in the reigns of Henry the Third, and Edward the First; which post he held sixteen years, and received an annual fee of *forty pounds*. He was a canon of St. Paul's, in London, justice itinerant in the years 1271, 2, 3, 4, &c. and chief commissioner in the regency appointed for the government of the kingdom, in the absence of Edward the First, when that monarch visited the Holy Land. On the king's return he was impeached of *malpractices*, with several others of the great law officers, and having been found guilty of bribery and corruption, was fined *seven thousand marks;* which not being immediately paid he was imprisoned; and afterwards banished with *nine* of his brethren; two only of the twelve judges, viz. *John de Metingham* and *Elias de Beckingham*, having escaped implication in the like charges. Having subsequently paid the enormous heavy fine, evinced signs of contrition for his offence, and given satisfaction to

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. II. p. 230.

† From a letter of the Rev. Mr. Watson, quoted in Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. II. p. 424.

to the public, he was made chief justice of the Common Pleas in the first year of King Edward the Second's reign, A. D. 1308. Dying that year, he was buried under a niche in the wall of the north aile of St. Paul's cathedral, in London*.

COSTESSEY, or COSSEY HALL, the seat of Sir William Jerningham, Bart. is situated about five miles N. W. of Norwich, in a part of the county justly celebrated for its diversified features of hill and dale. The house, partly ancient and partly modern, contains several good and convenient apartments, among which is a large well stocked library. Among the pictures is a PORTRAIT of Queen Mary, said to be by Holbein; and a very curious drawing by "Ph. Fruytiers," dated 1640, representing the celebrated *Earl of Arundel*, his countess, and three children. This picture was designed by Vandyck, as a sort of companion to his much-admired painting of the Pembroke family, at Wilton. Vertue has engraved a print from it†. Contiguous to the house is a modern chapel, built under the direction of Edward Jerningham, Esq. in what is commonly termed the gothic style: i. e. It has lofty windows with pointed arches, mullions, &c. each of which is filled with painted glass. The whole produces a beautiful effect, the detail is copied from various specimens of ancient church architecture, and is creditable to the taste of the designer.

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## MITFORD HUNDRED,

situated to the east of that of Forehoe, comprehends an area of about nine miles in length, by six in breadth; and is considered



* Dugdale's History of St. Paul's Cathedral, p. 47.

† See Walpole's Works, quarto edition, Vol. III. p. 209.

nearly the central district of the county. It is now well wooded, but formerly abounded with extensive commons, many of which have been enclosed. The soil is rich, and generally well cultivated. At the Norman survey it was called *Mittefort*, and belonged to the monastery of St. Etheldreda, in the Isle of Ely.

The sum raised for the support of the poor, in the year ending at Easter, 1803, was 5,133l. 10s. 4¾d.; forming an average on the rental, of two shillings and eleven-pence three-farthings in the pound. This hundred, conjointly with that of Launditch, have erected a spacious and convenient house of industry, for the reception of the poor, in the hamlet of Dillington, which is now included in the parish of East Dereham; and the two hundreds, for the purpose of parochial relief, were incorporated by an act passed in the fifteenth year of the present reign.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Burgh* South, *Cranworth*, *Dereham* East (cum Dillington), *Garvestone*, *Hardingham*, *Hockering*, *Letton*, *Mattishall*, *Mattishall* Burgh, *Reymerston*, *Shipdham*, *Thuxton*, *Tuddenham* East, *Tuddenham* North, *Westeld*, *Whinbergh*, *Woolrising*, and *Yaxham*.

## EAST DEREHAM

is a market-town of great antiquity, near the centre of the county. The first account respecting it, is in the time of the Saxons, when Withburga, natural daughter of Anna, King of East-Anglia, settled here with some other virgins, and erected a nunnery, became its first prioress, died at this place, and was buried in the conventual church. The house having been destroyed by the Danes, the church was made parochial in the year 798. About two hundred years after, Brithned, abbot of Ely, and his monks, concerted a scheme to convey the body of the princess, which had been reported to have remained uncorrupted, to their own monastery; which having effected, the body was enshrined at Ely, before the men of Dereham were able to take any steps for its

its recovery *. This religious house was afterwards converted into an abbey, though it is not known by whom. Roger Jarmey, the last *abbot*, resigned it to the crown, and the site was purchased by Thomas Dereham. The abbot was allowed a pension of 66l. 13s. 4d. per annum: whence it appears, that the annual revenues must have been very great.

Near the site was an ancient baptistry, and a curious old pointed arch covers a spring to which are still attributed salutiferous qualities.

The *Church*, built in the collegiate form, is a handsome structure, consisting of a nave, north and south ailes, transept, and choir, with a tower in the centre. In the reign of Henry the Seventh, this having been judged not sufficiently strong to bear the heavy bells, a large tower, called the *new clocker*, was erected, about twenty yards from the chancel, on the south side of the church-yard.

In the north transept of this church is a monument of white marble, the neatness of which is chastely appropriate to the mental qualities of him whose memory it records, bearing this inscription:—

In memory of
WILLIAM COWPER, Esquire,
Born in Hertfordshire, 1732:
Buried in this Church, 1800.

Ye who with warmth the public triumph feel,
Of talents dignified by sacred zeal,
Here to devotion's bard, devoutly just,
Pay your fond tribute, due to Cowper's dust;
England exulting in his spotless fame,
Ranks with her dearest sons, his favourite name.
Sense, fancy, wit, suffice not all to raise,
So clear a title to affection's praise,
His highest honours to the heart belong,
His *virtues* formed the magic of his song.

In

* This seizure in the "Historia Eliensis is termed, '*sanctum sacrilegium*'—*fidele furtum—salutaris rapina*, that is, *a holy sacrilege,—a pious fraud—a soul-saving robbery.*"

In the south transept stands a singularly carved ancient oaken chest which once belonged to the Howard family. It is supposed to be more than four hundred years old, was found in the ruins of Buckenham castle, and presented to this church by Samuel Rash, Esq. in the year 1786.

A curious and handsome FONT, in this church, was erected in the year 1468: it stands upon an octangular pedestal, consisting of two flights of steps, the upper of which is ornamented with roses and quatrefoils. The centre, or shaft, is enriched with full length figures of eight of the apostles, and beneath those, at the angles, the four evangelists, with their respective symbols, viz. an angel, lion, bull, and eagle. Upon the upper part, is carved the crucifixion of Christ, and the seven sacraments *.

The following extract of the expence of its erection is a curious document.

" COSTS of the newe FUNTE,

| | *li.* | *s.* | *d.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Imp'mis payd to the mason quan he teke the seyed funte in arnest ..... | „ | „ | iiij |
| It'm payd for makyng an obligaceon in the which he was bound for the seyd week ..... | „ | „ | iiij |
| It'm payd for lying of the frestone y$^{t}$ went to y$^{e}$ seyd funt to Lynne ..... | „ | „ | xxij |
| It'm payd for cranying of y$^{e}$ seyd ston ..... | „ | ij | viij |
| It'm payd for carying iiij lods of the seyd freston fro Lynne to East Dereham, price i lod carying ij$^{s}$ vj$^{d}$ ..... S'm | „ | x | „ |
| It'm payd for d: chaldyr of lyme xx$^{d}$ & cc tyle xvj$^{d}$ bowte atte Norwiche ..... S'm | „ | iij | „ |
| Carried forward .... | „ | xviij | ij |

It'm

* An engraving of this font is given in Carter's Specimens of Ancient Sculpture and Painting, Vol. II.

| | li. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brought forward .... | ,, | xviij | ij |
| It'm payd to Rob^t. Crane for carying of the seyd lyme and tyle ..... | ,, | ,, | xx |
| It'm payd to R c̄. Westhave for iron work to the seyd funte ..... | ,, | ,, | vj |
| It'm in expence upon help quan the funt was in the reysying ..... | ,, | ,, | vj |
| It'm payd to the mason for workmanship of the seyd funte ..... | x | ,, | ,, |
| It'm to his reward ..... | ,, | xx | ,, |
| It'm payd to Will. Plomer for ledyng of the new funte ..... | ,, | vj | v |
| It'm payd Will. Pylche for makyng of the stole to y^e funte, and the keveryng of the same .... | ,, | ,, | xx |
| It'm payd for makyng of aquetuns between our mason and us ..... | ,, | ,, | ij |
| S'm tot. | xii | xiij | ix" |

Of this money, fifty shillings and two-pence was raised by voluntary subscription; and the rest was supplied by the rent of the church-lands, by Sunday collections, and by the legacies, or *quest-word* * of the deceased. To this font, in the year 1678, was made an ornamented cover, supported by fluted pillars; and, like most additions of that period, is a disgrace to the structure for which it was intended as an elegant appendage.

*Edmund Bonnor*, of sanguinary memory, was rector of this church, from 1534 to 1540; who, subsequently having been made Bishop of London, is said to have caused upwards of two hundred persons to be burnt, for what he erroneously considered heresy.

The

* *Quest word* meant such donations as pious persons in Catholic ages requested should be made out of their estates or effects on their demise to charitable uses, and which had not been formally mentioned in their wills. Such *quest word* was, in those times, religiously observed.

The town contains many good houses, has assembly-rooms, and a convenient market-place, with a market weekly on Fridays; and two annual fairs. In the centre of the town stands a square column, on the sides of which are marked the distances, in measured miles, from the principal towns and seats in the county. They are said to be not strictly accurate; but it is a little singular, that the distance marked upon this pillar, serves to explain the meaning of the term *leuca*, which has by many been interpreted the French *league* of three miles*. Dereham is sixteen miles from Norwich; and in the rolls of the King's Bench it appears, that the Bishop had a fair at this place, which was reckoned sixteen *Leucas*, that is, miles, distant from the Palace at Norwich.

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## WAYLAND HUNDRED,

called *Waneland*, in Domesday Book, from the nature of the soil†, is situated to the south-west of Mitford, and extends in length eight miles, and in breadth about six. It formerly abounded in wood-lands and commons; but many of the latter have been recently inclosed: and on allotting the lands of Saham and Ovington wastes, the poor were compensated for their claims, by a grant of fifty pounds annually, to be distributed among them in *coals*, payable out of the inclosed lands. At the Norman Conquest it belonged to the crown; and was, by King John, given with the hundred of Grimshoe, to Sir Roger de Thony, or Tony, and his heirs for ever.

This

* "A league in Domesday is something better than *two miles*." Blomefield's Essay, Vol. II. p. 46, note 2. See Domesday Book Illustrated, under the term *Leuca*.

† *Wane*, in Saxon, signifies *springy* or *oozy*.

This hundred constitutes the deanery of Beccles, in the archdeaconry of Norwich.

The sum raised for the use of the poor, in the year ending 1803, was 4,062l. 13s. ½d.; forming an average in the pound-rate of four shillings and six-pence.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Askill, Breckles, Carbrooke, Caston, Ellingham Little, Griston, Merton, Ovington, Rockland St. Peter's, Saham Toney, Scoulton, Stowbedon, Thompson, Threxton, Tottington,* and *Watton.*

## WATTON

is a small market town, in the centre of the hundred, near what is called the *Filand,* or open part of the county, distant twenty-one miles from Norwich, and ninety-six from London. Since the making of the turnpike-road through the hundred, Watton has become a place of considerable thoroughfare. It has three annual fairs, and a good market weekly on Wednesdays. Blomefield was induced, from the appearance of the church, to suppose it was erected so early as the reign of Henry the First. It stands at a distance from the town, near the site of the old manorial house; and was evidently so placed to accommodate the tenants of the several hamlets belonging to the manor.

Near this town is *Wayland Wood,* vulgarly called *Wailing* Wood, from a tradition that two infants were basely murdered in it by their uncle; and which furnished the story of a beautifully pathetic and well-known ancient ballad, entitled "*The Children in the Wood;* or *The Norfolk Gentleman's Last Will and Testament* *." The name Wailing is a corruption of Wayland; and this demesne gives title to the hundred: the sheriff's torn, or court, having formerly been kept at a place in this wood.

CARBROOKE.

* Preserved in Percy's Reliques of Ancient Poetry.

CARBROOKE. At this village was a commandry of *Knights Templars*, and the only one in this county. It was first a præceptory of these knights, and was founded by Roger, Earl of Clare, who died in the year 1173. In 1182, Maud, Countess of Clare, and widow of the founder, gave it to the Knights *Hospitallers* of St. John of Jerusalem, and more amply endowed it; which endowment was confirmed by her son, Richard de Clare, Earl of Hertford, and King John. This house was sometimes denominated "the priory of St. John of Jerusalem," but commonly "the *commandry* of *Kerbrook*." It was enriched with numerous farms and vassals. All persons who enjoyed the privileges of this order, were allowed to fix a *cross* upon their houses and lands, which exempted them from the payment of tythes, taxes, and many customary dues. These privileges, the knights, by granting their name and use of the cross, conferred upon others; for which exemptions numbers of small annual payments were made to them, out of houses, lands, and tenements, in this and the adjoining counties. But this abuse growing enormous, by many presuming to put a *cross* upon their property, a statute was enacted in the reign of Edward the First, that all who set crosses *falsely*, that is, without actually being members of the order, should forfeit the house, land, or tenement, to the lord of the fee. The annual revenues, at the Dissolution, were valued at 65l. 2s. 9d.; which, with the site, and a chapel belonging to the fraternity, were granted to Sir Richard Gresham and Sir Richard Southwell, Knts.

The Church at Carbrooke is a regular pile, consisting of a nave, two ailes, two porches, and chancel, with a lofty square tower at the west end. The screens, which separate the nave from the chancel, have been justly admired. *Sixteen* stalls in the latter, point out the number of *knights* belonging to the commandry at the period when the church was erected. Numerous persons of distinction have been interred here, as is apparent from the various stones, with mutilated inscriptions, but deprived of the arms.

On digging in the desecrated church-yard of *Carbrooke Parva*, in

in the year 1737, a *Cross* was found of a very curious form, with an oaken stem, ornamented with brass bosses, and from the transept hung two chains, suspending two jewels. This belonged to some Knight Templar, and was probably brought from the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem.

MERTON PARK, near the village of *Merton*, was formerly the seat of the ancient family of *Greys*. The house, which is a fine antiquated mansion, in what is usually termed the Gothic or pointed style, stands in an extensive park, diversified with rich plantations; and numerous improvements, made at divers times to the buildings and grounds, have greatly contributed to its picturesque beauty. It is at present a seat of *Lord Walsingham*.

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## SOUTH GREENHOE HUNDRED

is an extensive district, of about thirteen miles in length, by eight in breadth. The country abounds with sheep-walks, and consists chiefly of a sandy soil.

At the time of the Norman Survey it was a demesne of the crown; is now in the Duke of Norfolk's liberty, and forms part of the deanery of Cranwick.

The sum raised for the relief of the poor, in the year 1803, was 4,658l. 16s. ¼d.; forming an average rate of two shillings and six-pence three-farthings in the pound.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Bodney*, *Bradenham* East, *Bradenham* West, *Caldecote*, *Cockley* Cley, *Cressingham* Great, *Cressingham* Little, *Didlington*, *Foulden*, *Gooderstone*, *Hillborough*, *Holme Hale*, *Houghton* on the Hill, *Langford*, *Narborough*, *Narford*, *Necton*, *Newton*, *Oxburgh*, *Pickenham* North, *Pickenham* South, *Shingham*, *Southacre*, *Sporle* (with Palgrave), and *Swaffham*.

SWAFFHAM

## SWAFFHAM

is a large respectable town, situated on high ground, in a part of the county which has been considered by the faculty as peculiarly salubrious. Some instances of great longevity have been adduced in proof of this opinion*. The town is extensive, and the houses are distributed over a considerable space of ground. Near the centre is a large open area, in which is a pool of water. The chief public structure of the town is the *Church*, which is a spacious handsome pile of building, the greater part of which appears to have been built about the time of Henry the Sixth, or Henry the Seventh. It consists of a nave and two ailes, with two transepts on the south side, one to the north, and a lofty well-proportioned tower†. This is surmounted with enriched embrasures and purfled pinnacles. The nave is very lofty, having twenty-six cleristory windows, and its inner roof is ornamented with carved wood, figures of angels, bosses, &c. The windows were formerly charged with stained glass, some of which remains. Here are some handsome monuments, among which is an ALTAR TOMB with an effigy of JOHN BOTEWRIGHT, D. D. who was Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, chaplain to King Henry the Sixth, a native and rector of this parish. On the monument is four shields: one contains three cups, each having the sacramental *wafer* on the margin; a second has a *triangle*, emblematic of the Trinity; a third bears three *boats*, or barges; and the fourth displays three *wimbles*, or augurs. The former represent his

* In the year 1798, four persons died here, whose united ages amounted to 355 years; and in the year 1799 eleven died, the total of whose ages was 890 years. Norfolk Tour, p. 266.

† A view of this from the S. E. shewing one of the southern transepts porch, and upper part of the nave accompanies this description.

his office and faith; and the latter allude to his name, *Bote-Wright**. Some of the pews are curiously carved, and in the library is preserved a fine missal. A cross was erected on the Market-hill, in the year 1783, at the expence of the late Earl of Orford.

The number of houses, as appears by the returns made to Parliament in 1800, was 452, and of inhabitants, 2,220. The market, on Saturdays, is well supplied with provisions, and the great butter mart has lately been removed here from Downham.

Near this town is an extensive heath, which forms an admirable race-ground. Swaffham races are annually held about the end of September. Coursing-matches are also frequent here, and the *grey-hounds* are as regularly entered for the purpose, and placed under the same restrictions, as *running-horses.*

NARBURGH is a small village, situated on the river *Nar*. John Brame, in a manuscript history, quoted by Spelman in his Icenia, says, this was a British city in the time of Uter Pendragon, about the year 500; that it was governed by Earl *Okenard*, and stood a seven months siege against King *Waldy*. The name is Saxon,

 and

* This mode of pointing out by hieroglyphical marks, the office or occupation of the deceased, is of high antiquity. It was practised among the Greeks and Romans, and is mentioned in the time of Homer. When Ulysses visited the infernal shades, he was addressed by Elpenor, who entreated him to take care of his, Elpenor's body; and after he had erected a monument, to place over it the *oar* with which he used to row. Odyssey, L. xi. And Virgil informs us that Æneas, in honour of Misenus,

> ——————" ingenti mole sepulchram
> Imponit, *suaque arma* viro, remumque tubamque."
>
> Æn. L. vi.

During the dark ages nothing was more usual than to transmit the name of a *founder*, or *benefactor* to posterity under the veil of a *rebus*.

and the works in the vicinity point out its antiquity. From this place to Eastmore-fen, extend a large foss and rampart, by which the hundred of Clackclose was bounded on that side. At the head of this foss, near Narburgh Hall, was a lofty fortified mount, called the *burgh*. In making a garden near its base, in the year 1600, several human bones and pieces of armour were discovered. This place is peculiarly interesting to the antiquary; and it is supposed that a small Roman station was once established here. In the contiguous parish of

NARFORD, numerous Roman bricks, and other relics, have been found; a large brass vase, or urn, was also dug up in the court-yard of the manor house.

NARFORD HALL, the seat of *Brigg Fountaine, Esq.* was erected by the late Sir Andrew Fountaine, Knt. who has rendered himself and the place noted, by cultivating the friendship of Pope, and of some other literary characters of the time when he lived. The house was not only the rendezvous of living genius, but a repository for works of art and learning. At present it displays a choice collection of pictures, ancient painted earthenware, some bronzes, coins, and a fine library of books. Among the first class, a few may be named as excellent specimens of the respective artists:—

Holy family in a landscape, by *Titian*. Another of the same subject, but treated in a very different manner of composition, colouring, &c. by *Andrea del Sarto*. An old man, and a woman, by *Rembrandt*, dated 1659, and painted in his exquisite style of colouring and effect. Two pictures by *Julio Romano*, from King Charles's collection.—Dogs, by *Fytt*, engraved by Boydel. Portraits of Lady Elizabeth Butler, and Lady Ann Hamilton, both by Sir *Peter Lely*, and engraved for the Memoirs of Grammont. Portrait of Dobson, by himself.

Here is a large collection of old china, several pieces of which were painted by Raffaele. Among this are two very large cisterns,

cisterns, of fine form and execution, measuring three feet by eighteen inches each.

The founder of this repository of the arts was made Knight of the Bath by patent, during the reign of George the First, in the year 1726; at which time he was vice-chamberlain to the Princess of Wales. He was complimented for his elegant taste by Mr. *Pope;* and Narford Hall perpetuates a display of it. Sir Andrew, when young, wrote a treatise entitled "*Numismata Anglorum Saxonica, et Anglo-Danica, breviter illustrata,*" printed at Oxford, A. D. 1704.

OXBURGH is situated upon the small river Wissey, which runs into the lesser Ouse, and is navigable to a place called the *Hithe,* within one mile of the village, by which a communication is formed to Cambridge and Lynn. This place, Blomefield says, was of some note in the time of the Romans, and from coins of that period having been found he was induced to fix here the station *Iciani**, of Antoninus, rather than at Ickborough; as this place, equally with that, is said to be at the same distance from *Villa Faustini.* To the north-west of the village, on *Warren Hill,* are a very deep foss and vallum, and several *tumuli;* and near the river are numerous hollows, still denominated *Danes Graves.* At the time of the Norman survey the place was in possession of *Turketil,* the *Danish* Earl of East-Anglia.

The church has a square tower of curious workmanship, having the quoins and battlements of free stone, and surmounted by a lofty octangular spire. The east window of the chancel, which reaches from the altar to the roof, was richly ornamented with stained glass. In the lower pannels were painted the birth, death, resurrection, &c. of the Saviour. In the next compartments



* Fulk places this station at *Exning,* near Newmarket, in Cambridgeshire; Talbot, at *Ickborough,* and Gale and Ward at *Chesterford,* or at Ickleton, near the latter village.

were figures of the Virgin Mary, &c. and in the upper, the *nine* orders of angels*. The roof is impannelled with oak, on which are carved various figures, devices, &c. In the south aile is a chapel, or chantry, (built in 1573), belonging to the Bedingfeld family, several of whom have been interred here. An ancient sculptured stone *screen* separates the chapel from the aile. It exhibits an early specimen of revived Grecian, or Corinthian-Gothic, as Mr. Forby calls it. A monument to the memory of the last Abbot of Wymondham, in Wymondham church, displays a similarity of design and execution, which renders it likely that they were both executed at the same time, and by the same hand: probably about the year 1550.

Oxburgh Hall presents features of a striking kind, and is a peculiar and interesting remnant of ancient domestic architecture. It was erected in the latter end of the fifteenth century, by *Sir Edmund Bedingfeld*†, who obtained a grant or patent of King Edward the Fourth, in the year 1482, to build the manor-house with towers, battlements, machicolations, &c. It is built of *brick*, and was originally of a square form, environing a court, or quadrangle, one hundred and eighteen feet long, and ninety-two broad; round which the apartments were ranged. The whole building resembles Queen's College, in Cambridge; a structure

* Ritualists usually marshal the heavenly hosts into *three* hierarchies, or orders; each order consisting of three degrees.—1. *Seraphim, cherubim, et throni;* 2. *Dominationes, virtutes, potestates;* 3. *principatus, archangeli, et angeli.* "Durant de Ritualibus Ecclesiasticis," &c. p. 558.

† For an account of this family see the Baronetage of England, by Kimber and Johnstone, Vol. II. p. 140, and Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. VI. p. 173. *Sir Edmund Bedingfeld*, the builder of this mansion, was a firm adherent to the House of York; and King Edward the Fourth allowed him to bear the fetterlock for his cognizance. Henry the Seventh gave him these manors, and honoured him with a visit.

ture of about the same period. The entrance is over a bridge, formerly a draw-bridge, through an arched gateway, between two majestic towers, which are eighty feet high. In the western tower, or turret, is a winding brick stair-case beautifully turned, and lighted by quatrefoil ilet-holes. The other tower is divided into four stories, each consisting of an octagonal room, with arched ceilings, stone window-frames, and stone fire-places. Between the turrets is an arched entrance gateway, the roof of which is supported by numerous groins; and over this is a large handsome room, having one window to the north, and two bow-windows to the south. These windows, and the whole exterior of this part of the building, appear to be in their original state. The floor of the great room is paved with small fine bricks, and the walls covered with very curious tapestry, which exhibits several figures of princes, ladies, and gentlemen. This appears to be of the age of Henry the Seventh, and is mentioned in several wills of the family. The apartment is called the king's room, and is supposed to have been appropriated to the monarch just mentioned, when he visited Oxburgh. In the eastern turret is a curious small closet, called a *hiding place*, which appears to have been an original part of the structure: it is a cavity, or hollow, in the solid wall, measuring six feet by five feet, and seven feet high, and is approached by a secret passage through the floor. A similar hiding place is said to have been destroyed in that part of the building which has been taken down. The great hall, which had an oaken roof, in the style of the justly admired one at Westminster Hall; and other rooms, which formed the south side of the court, were taken down in the year 1778, and the distribution of almost every apartment has been successively changed. The offices are now on the east side, and the dining parlour, drawing-room, and library on the west. The whole is surrounded by a moat about fifty-two feet broad, and ten feet deep, which is supplied with water from an adjacent rivulet. In the different apartments, which are both spacious and elegant, are preserved a few good pic-

tures *, by eminent painters, and a collection of ancient armoury. This venerable seat is the property and residence of *Sir Richard Bedingfeld, Bart* †.

## GRIMSHOE HUNDRED,

situated to the south of Greenhoe, is separated from the northern part of Suffolk by the little Ouse. It is about thirteen miles long, and extends in breadth from four to eight miles. The country is champaign, and the soil chiefly sand, upon a substratum of chalk; except the western side, which forms part of the marshy district of the Bedford level. It is peculiarly favourable to sheep, and the rabbits bred upon the various warrens, particularly those on *Methwold heath*, are, among epicures, distinguished for their delicious flavour.

The manor, formerly held by the crown, was granted by King John to Ralph de Tony. It is in the deanry of Cranwich, and arch-deaconry of Norfolk.

The money raised for parochial aid in the year 1803, was 3,293l. 18s. 9¼d. constituting an average of three shillings and eight-pence halfpenny in the annual pound-rate.

This

* Among these are the following full-length *Portraits:* of Mary Queen of Scots;—of Judge Lyttleton;—and of the celebrated *Earl of Arundel* and his Countess, by *Vandyck*:—two large Landscapes, by *Paul Brill*:—two Landscapes, by *G. Poussin*:—a Portrait of SECRETARY CROMWELL, by Holbein:—a Cascade, by *Ruisdaele*:—two Landscapes, with horses and figures, by *Wouvermans*:—a Portrait of SIR THOMAS GRESHAM, by *Zucchero*:—Christ holding the globe, by *Salvator Rosa*:—Portraits on pannel of WM. DE LA POLE, DUKE OF SUFFOLK;—HENRY, EARL OF SURRY;—SIR ANTHONY DENNY;—KING EDWARD THE FOURTH;—KING HENRY THE SEVENTH, when young.

† A view of the entrance towers, with the bridge, &c. is given herewith, from a drawing made by Mr. Mackenzie, in October 1808.

This Hundred contains the parishes of *Buckenham* (near Tofts) *Colveston, Cranwich, Croxton, Feltwell* St. Mary, and St. Nicholas, *Hockwold* (with Wilton) *Igburgh, Lynford, Methwold, Moundford, Northwold, Santon, Stanford, Toft West,* and *Weeting* (with Broomhill.)

## METHWOLD,

a small town, and the only one in the hundred, had formerly a good market, which is now almost disused, and the place at present noted for nothing but the immense number of rabbits which are brought for sale from the adjoining heath.

In this parish was situated the priory of *Slevesholm,* commonly called *Slusham,* which was a cell to the monastery of Castle Acre.

Croxton, a village standing on the side of a hill, is remarkable for a plantation near it, which is upon such high land, and in so open a country, as to be distinguishable from very distant parts; and consequently receives the appellation of *Croxton high trees.* In the church is a singularly curious *font;* the bason, which is very large, is supported by a shaft, formed of five stone pilasters, and has a hole, with a stopple at bottom, for letting out the consecrated water. From the dimensions, being sufficiently capacious to admit of *dipping* the infants to be baptized, it is considered as old as the time of the Saxons: immersion at that period having been invariably used, as appears from the baptism of King Edgar, by Dunstan, referred to by William of Worcester*.

Ickburgh, though placed in the map of Milne's Survey, in South Greenhoe Hundred, belongs to that of Grimshoe. Dr. Gale fixes here the station *Iciani* of Antoninus. The first syllable of the name, with the addition of *burgh,* a fortification, and a road towards the next station southward, which is broad, direct, and as-



* Metra de Regibus Angliæ.

sumes an air of antiquity, are circumstances which embolden conjecture. But if, as is generally allowed, the VILLA FAUSTINI was at *St. Edmund's Bury*, then the distance exactly answers to that recorded in the *Itinerary*, which furnishes a corroborative proof. Near the village, on the road to Bury, was found a large Roman *milliare*, or mile-stone. In the year 1720, two urns were dug up at *Lynford*, the adjoining village; and in 1735, a gardener working in the plantations of Mr. Nelthorpe's house, discovered a pavement of flint-stones, on which were ashes, with ossary fragments, and beneath, an urn. This was evidently a Roman sepulchral hearth *. All these circumstances combined, furnish a fair claim for *Ickburgh's* having been the station *Iciani*.

NORTHWOLD. The church of this village has a handsome lofty quadrangular tower, built of flint, with free-stone quoins and battlements, and eight richly carved pinnacles at the summit. It was erected in the reign of King Edward the Fourth.

Against the north wall of the chancel is a lofty shrine, constructed of clunch, and decorated with curious workmanship. The upper part is in the spire-tabernacle style, consisting of arched canopies over several niches, which originally contained images. On the lower part, which forms an altar-tomb, are three effigies of men in armour, and three trees in a declining posture. This designated "*The Sepulchre of our Lord* †;" The position of the men and trees appear to allude to the description of the crucifixion, "And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men, and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent, &c. ‡" A sepulchre of this kind was erected in every church of note, and great pomp and pageantry were used before it, at high

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. VI. p. 237.

† An engraving, and a copious description of this, and of some similar monuments, is given in the "*Vetusta Monumenta.*"

‡ St. Matthew's Gospel, chap. xxvii, v. 51; and ch. xxviii. v. 4.

high festivals. On Good-Fridays the *crucifix* and *pix* were deposited at this sepulchre; and on Easter-days again solemnly removed, when the priest came to that part of the service, " *Surrexit, non est hic." He is not here but risen.*

On the south side of the chancel is a monumental tablet to the memory of *Robert Burhill*, D. D. rector of this church, who wrote ably in Latin against the champions of the Romish church. He was cotemporary with, and the intimate friend, of the great *Sir Walter Raleigh*, and assisted him in the critical part of his *History of the World.*

WEETING ALL SAINTS. In this parish was BROMEHILL PRIORY, which was founded by *Sir Hugh de Plaiz*, about the time of King John. Several authors have erred in their accounts of this monastery, by stating it to have been for monks of the *Benedictine*, instead of the *Augustine* order; and that the site and lands were sold to Sir Thomas Wodehouse. Whereas it appears, by the register of Butley, that it was suppressed *previous* to the general dissolution, by a bull of Pope Clement the Seventh, dated *May* 14, 1528; and was released the same year to Cardinal Wolsey, to whom it was granted by King Henry the Eighth. On the attainder of the cardinal, both were conferred, in exchange for other lands, upon Christ's College, Cambridge*.

Near the east end of the church-yard are the ruins of a square castle; part of the moat also, and the hill, on which was erected the keep, are still visible.

On the west side of the village is a bank and ditch, extending some miles, called *Fendyke*, or the *Foss;* and in the fields is a grassy way, called *Walsingham Way*, by which pilgrims used to pass to the *Madona* at Walsingham.

Two miles to the east of Weeting, on a rising ground, is a large *Encampment* of a semicircular form, comprising about twelve acres. Within the inclosure are numerous deep pits, dug in

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. vol. VI. p. 166.

in a *quincunx* form, having the largest in the centre. These pits are not only capable of containing a large body of men, but of concealing them from the view of persons passing the road. At the end of this entrenchment is a long *tumulus*, or barrow. This remarkable place is called GRIME'S GRAVES, and is supposed to have been so denominated from a person named *Grime:* and *Grave*, a Saxon word for a hole, *i. e. Grime's Holes.*

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## CLACKCLOSE HUNDRED

lies to the west of those of Grimshoe and South Greenhoe. This district, which is called a hundred and a half, extends from north to south about sixteen miles, and from east to west between eight and twelve. Much of the land is marshy, lying near the great level of the fens: the old and new Bedford rivers, with the *Washway*, pass through the lower part.

The money raised for the use of the poor, in the year 1803, was 7,875*l.* 5s. 11d.; forming an average in the annual pound-rate of two shillings and ten-pence halfpenny.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Barton Bendish, Beechamwell, Bexwell, Bougton, Crimplesham, Denver, Dereham West, Downham Market, Fincham, Fordham, Hilgay, Holme* (next Runcton), *Masham, Outwell, Roxham, Runcton* South, *Ryston, Shouldham, Shouldham-Thorpe, Southerly, Stoke Ferry, Stow Bardolph, Stradsett, Tottenhill, Upwell, Wallington* (with Thorpland), *Watlington, Welney, Wereham, Wimbotsham, Wormegay*, and *Wretton.*

## DOWNHAM MARKET,

a market town and parish, is situated on the side of a hill to the east of the river Ouse, over which it has a good bridge. Some of the town is paved; and it has a market weekly on Saturdays, which

which is well supplied with fish and wild fowl from the adjacent fens. This place was long celebrated for its immense butter-market, which used to be kept near the bridge every Monday. In the spring and summer some thousands of firkins were annually purchased by factors for London; where, from being sent by way of Cambridge, it obtained the name of Cambridge butter*. But this article is now taken for sale to Swaffham.

Spelman states, that the privilege of a market was granted to this town by King Edward the Confessor. The principal manor here, with the whole hundred, were given by King Edgar to Ramsey Abbey, in Huntingtonshire: the Abbot was authorised by King John to hold a fair at this place. By Henry the Third he was invested with authority to try and execute malefactors at his "gallows of Downham." Contiguous to the church were formerly some monastic buildings, particularly a *priory* of Benedictine monks. In the year 1801, this parish contained 278 houses, and 1512 inhabitants.

DENVER, a large village, situated upon a *hill*† at a short distance from what is termed the grand *erratum* in Norfolk improvements, *Denver Sluice;* has a very curious mean church, built of *car*, or *rag*-stone, *camerated* with *wooden* pannels, and roofed with reed, or thatch. This place gave birth to that learned English historian, Dr. ROBERT BRADY; of whom the plodding Oxford antiquary, Thomas Hearne, gave this high character: "*Rob. Bradius, plerisque omnibus sequioris ævi, historicis nostris Anglicanis sit anteferendus.*" He was physician in ordinary to Kings Charles, and James the Second, regius professor of medicine in Cambridge, and master of Gonville and Caius Colleges,

* "It is said, from good authority, 90,000 firkins have gone from hence by water to Cambridge, and thence to London." Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 116.

† In Mr. Parkin's additions to Blomefield's Essay, &c. it is described as lying in a *low vale.*

Colleges, in the same university; to which he was a great benefactor. Dying at his native place in the year 1700, his remains were interred in the church. On a black marble stone, a Latin inscription briefly records his worth and appointments.

Dereham Abbey, situated in the parish of West Dereham, was founded, A.D. 1188, by a native of this place, *Hubert Walter*, Dean of York, who was successively Bishop of Salisbury, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Lord Chancellor, in the reign of Richard the First; he was also Legate to Pope Celestine the Fourth, and Chief Justice of England. This abbey was dedicated to God and the Virgin Mary, for monks of the *Premonstratensian* order. The annual revenues, at the Dissolution, were valued, according to Speed, at 252l. 12s. 11½d. The site is about a mile south of the church, and the old gate-house, or entrance-tower is still standing. It is a lofty and noble square embattled pile of brick, having at each corner an octangular tower, groined with freestone; and over the arch of the gate is a shield, bearing azure three bucks' heads cabosed, the lower one pierced with a crosier-staff. On each side of this elegant gateway Sir Thomas Dereham, Envoy to the Duke of Tuscany, in the year 1697, erected a wing with a cloister on the south, which contained many stately apartments. These were fitted up in the Italian style. It was afterwards a seat of the Earls of Montrath.

In Fincham Church is an ancient square font *, supposed to have belonged to the old church, which is mentioned in Domesday-book.

A mansion, now occupied as a farm-house in this parish, built about the reign of Edward the Fourth, exhibits an *early* specimen of the *revived Grecian* style in domestic architecture, in a circular entrance to the hall, which has pillars of the Ionic order.

* A plate of this is given in the Archæologia.

order. It bears some resemblance to the gateway of Caius College, Cambridge*.

At SOUTH RUNCTON is a ruin, which presents the semicircular east end of an *ancient Saxon* church; and is believed to be the remains of one given to St. Edmund, in the reign of Canute.

WEREHAM. In this parish stood the PRIORY of WINWALVE, or *Winwaloch* †. This religious house was founded before the time of King John by the family of Clare. Some remains are still visible in the walls of a farm-house.

A curious specimen of domestic architecture, supposed, by Mr. Forby, to have been a dwelling house, and which he styles *a Norman country box*, stands in this parish, and is known by the name of WINWAL HOUSE.

Before the reign of Edward the First, the Earl of Clare possessed this manor, which was the head lordship of the honor of Clare, and of which several contiguous manors were held. Here he possessed a prison, which is traditionally identified with the house just referred to. This consists of two stories: in the lower is a room twenty feet square, in which is a large open fire-place, with a massive column on one side; it is finished at top with a sort of cornice of zigzag moulding. A small vaulted room constitutes the remainder of the ground-floor. The second story contained also two apartments, the largest of which had four windows, "in the Norman fashion;" a fire-place also, similar to that in the lower room. "The whole building (observes Mr. Forby)

* Letter from the Rev. Mr. Forby to the Editor.

† This was a British saint, whose obit was kept in the Romish church on the first of March. As the weather is generally stormy at this season of the year, the winds in this neighbourhood are then called *Whinwall*, or *Winwal* storms, and are alluded to in the following proverbial rhyme:

"First comes David, then comes Chad;
Then comes Whinwall, as if mad."

Forby) is thirty-three feet in length, by twenty-seven in breadth; and in height, to the top of the walls, scarcely sixteen feet. It seems to be the complete edifice. The outline appears entire and original, and every where strictly Norman. Such a building could not have served even for the occasional residence of the mighty earl himself; but probably was for the use of the seneschal, when he came on the business of courts, &c."

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## FREEBRIDGE MARSHLAND HUNDRED,

which lies to the north-west of Clackclose, is an island, comprehended between the sea and the rivers Ouse and Nene. The whole of this district, which has at some period been under water, and appears to have been originally submerged by the ocean, is now obliged to be secured from its ravages by ranges of artificial banks, or dykes. These, standing at considerable distances from each other, tend to shew the progressive steps taken by the hand of skill and industry, to secure the boon which nature had bestowed. The first, or inner rampart, is attributed to the Romans. The length of this hundred is ten miles, and the breadth about seven; comprising an area of thirty thousand acres, intersected by ditches and drains, over which are one hundred and eleven bridges, all principally constructed of *brick*. The sum raised for the maintenance of the poor, in the year 1803, was 6,986l. 6s. 7d.; making an average of three shillings and one farthing in the annual pound-rate.

The land of this district is mostly very fruitful, both with respect to grain and pasturage; and within a few years, above five thousand acres of waste and fen-land, towards the south, have been inclosed. In the northern side a considerable tract of salt-marsh has been embanked. These improvements have been chiefly

chiefly effected by Rear Admiral Bentinck, who possesses a very large estate in the parish of Terrington, which was granted by King William the Third to William, Earl of Portland.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Clenchwharton*, *Emneth*, *Lynn* West, *Terrington* St. Clement's, *Terrington* St. John's, *Tilney* All Saints, *Tilney* (cum Islington), *Tilney* St. Lawrence, *Walpole* St. Andrew, *Walpole* St. Peter, *Walsoken*, *Walton* West, *Wiggenhall* St. German's, *Wiggenhall* St. Mary's, *Wiggenhall* St. Mary Magdalen's, and *Wiggenhall* St. Peter's.

TILNEY is famous for a remarkably fertile spot of land, called *Tilney Smeeth*, which is a large common, where more than thirty thousand sheep, and all the horned cattle belonging to seven villages, are said to have constantly fed, although its extent was only three miles in length, and one in breadth. Respecting its fertility, a courtier observed to King James the First, "that if over night a wand or rod was laid on the ground, by the morning it would be covered with grass of that night's growth, so as not to be discerned." To which the king jocosely replied, "that he knew some grounds in *Scotland*, where, if a horse was put in over night, they could not see him, or discern him in the morning. *"

A stone coffin, which stood in the church-yard of Tilney, though not capable of containing a body more than *six feet* in length, was usually shewn as belonging to one *Hickifric*, or *Hickathrift*, a reputed giant †.

WALPOLE,

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. IX. p. 79.—About seven years since an act passed for the draining and inclosing of Marshland Sneeth and Fen. From which it appears, that the Sneeth Common contained 1,585 acres, 1 rood, and the Fen 4,757 acres, 3 roods; making a total of 6,343 acres. By which improvements the value of more than 30,000l. per annum has been added to the produce of the kingdom.

† This person, who appears to have been a Knight Templar, is the hero of the well-known popular story, published in the book of wonders, as the Life and Exploits of *Thomas Hickathrift, the Giant.*

WALPOLE, a village which gave name to the Walpole family, is said to have been so called from standing near a Roman *wall*, or bank, and a small pool of water. A person digging in his garden at this place, in the year 1727, found, about three feet beneath the surface, numerous Roman bricks, and an *aquæduct*, formed of earthen pipes, which were twenty inches long, three inches and three-quarters in the bore, and half an inch thick; the one end diminishing, so as to be inserted in the wider end of the other. Twenty-six were taken up nearly whole, and distributed among several antiquaries *.

The *Church* of St. Peter is an embattled structure, consisting of a chancel, a nave, having thirteen clerestory windows on each side, two ailes, the windows of which have flattened arches, and a handsome south porch, with a room over it, bearing in the stone-work the arms of Godard and Denver, quarterly. It was erected in the early part of King Henry the Sixth's reign, about A. D. 1423 †. At a place called *Cross-keys*, in this parish, is a passage over the Washes, for horses and carriages, to Long Sutton, in Lincolnshire. The distance across the sands is two miles, and the channel is narrow at low water.

WALSOKEN. Against the wall of the church-steeple in this village is an effigy of King Solomon, sitting in a chair, or on a throne, projecting from the wall; and at the east end of the nave another of King David, with his harp. The *font* is a fine piece of sculpture, ornamented with figures of the saints, the Saviour's passion, with the seven sacraments of the Romish church; and round the pedestal is inscribed: "*Remember the soul of S. Hanyter, and Margaret his wife, and John Beforth, chaplain.*"

That amiable prelate, DR. THOMAS HERRING, was a native of

* Camden's Britannia, edition by Gough, Vol. II. p. 116.

† In Blomefield's Essay, Vol. IX. p. 112, is an elevation of the south side. The author says, "it is one of the most beautiful parish churches in the kingdom."

of this parish; of which his father, the Rev. John Herring, continued rector for thirty-six years. The former was born in the year 1693; received his education at Benet College, Cambridge, and entered into holy orders. He was first Bishop of Bangor, then translated to the archiepiscopal see of York, where, having distinguished himself during the Scotch rebellion, in the year 1745, he was, for his loyalty, quickly promoted to the metropolitan see of Canterbury; and died at Lambeth, in 1757, greatly regretted by all who knew him.

Terrington is the most northern parish of this hundred, extending along the banks of the Wash. The impropriation of the great tithes was given by King James the First, as an augmentation to Lady Margaret's professorship of divinity at Cambridge. The revenues have so much increased of late years, as to render that chair the most lucrative piece of preferment in the gift of the University.

## FREEBRIDGE LYNN HUNDRED,

situated to the north-east of Marshland, was formerly comprehended with the latter, and called Freebridge Hundred and Half. This district is supposed to have received its name from a bridge over the river Ouse at St. Germain's, which was passable free of all tolls. The hundred is in extent about twelve miles each way. The soil is of different kinds, the features of the country pleasingly varied, and the land gradually rises from the coast to the centre of the hundred, and is watered by several small streams. The fee was in the crown, and granted by William the Conqueror to his butler, William de Albini. This hundred, with that of Marshland, constitutes the deanery of Lynn, in the archdeaconry of Norwich.

The money raised for the support of the poor, in the year 1803,

was 6,276l. 15s. 7¾d. forming an average in the annual pound rental of two shillings and ten-pence three farthings.

The Hundred contains the parishes of *Anmer*, *Ashwicken*, *Babingley*, *Bawsey*, *Bilney* West, *Castle-Acre*, *Castle-Rising*, *Congham*, *Dersingham*, *Flitcham*, *Gayton*, *Gayton Thorpe*, *Gaywood*, *Grimstone*, *Harpley*, *Hillington*, *Leaziate*, *Great Massingham*, *Little Massingham*, *Middleton*, *Lynn-Mint*, *Newton* West, *Pentney*, *Roydon*, *Runcton* North, *Sanderingham*, *Setchey*, *Walton* East, *Westacre*, *Winch* East, *Winch* West, *Woolferton*, *Wootton* North, and *Wootton* South.

## LYNN REGIS, OR KING'S LYNN,

an ancient port and town, is supposed by Camden to have been a British settlement, and the name, he says, is derived from *Llyn*, a *lake*, or expanse of water; but Spelman, with more probability, deduces this from the Saxon term *lean*, which signifies a *tenure* in *fee*, or *farm;* and observes that its ancient appellation was *Len Episcopi*, that is, the *Bishop's farm*. In Domesday-book, it is written *Lun* and *Lena*, and at the time of that survey belonged to Agelmare, bishop of North Elmham, and Stigand, archbishop of Canterbury. That it was a place of some consequence and trade in the time of the Norman Conqueror, is evident, from its enjoying the privilege of certain duties and customs, payable on the arrival of any goods and merchandizes by sea or land; of which the bishop of the diocese at that time was found seized of a moiety. King Henry the First granted liberty to the priory of Norwich, which then possessed the fee of the town, to hold a fair at Lynn, on the feast of St. Margaret, &c. with sac and soc, and other customs. William de Newburgh, a writer, who lived in the time of Richard the First, describes it as "Urbs commeatu et commerciis nobilis;" when many Jews resided in it, a people who at that period were celebrated for trade over most parts of Europe.

This town has been honoured with no less than fifteen royal charters. In the year 1204, King John having chastised the revolted

volted barons of Norfolk, halted with his army at this place; when, on the petition of John Grey, bishop of Norwich, who had lately erected a palace at *Gaywood*, in the vicinity, that monarch granted Lynn a charter to be a free borough for ever; the burgesses to choose a *præpositus* or provost, who should be subject to the bishop; thence denominated the "*Bishop's man.*" The term *præpositus* being of an indefinite signification, has led some to deny, that King John granted liberty to the town to be governed by a mayor. But by his letters patent in the last year of his reign, directed "*To the Mayor and good men of Lenn,*" it appears an indisputable fact*. That monarch presented the new corporation with an elegant embossed and enamelled *Cup and cover*, of silver, double gilt, weighing seventy-three ounces, and holding about a pint. This cup is still in a high state of preservation, is used on public occasions, and exhibits a fine specimen of art at that period †.

The same king is said also to have taken from his side a silver-mounted sword, which he presented to the corporation, to be borne before the mayor. An inscription in Latin, on one side of the hilt ‡, records the donation; but Spelman, and Bishop Gibson, assert that it was actually the gift of *King Henry the Eighth*, when the town coming into his possession, he converted the burgesses into aldermen, granted the place several privileges, and changed the name from *Lynn Episcopi*, to *Lynn Regis*. In confirmation of this the former inscription is supposed to be of later date than

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* These are dated at Devizes, in Wiltshire, June 7, 1216. Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. VIII. p. 488.

† An engraved view of it is given in Carter's Specimens of Ancient Sculpture and Painting, Vol. II.

‡ First inscription.—Ensis hic Donum fuit Regis Johannis
a suo ipsius Latere datum.

Second inscription.—Vivat Rex Henricus Octavus,
Anno Regni sui xx.

the time of King John. It is remarkable, observes Mr. Mackerell, the Lynn antiquary, that in a window on the north side of the choir, near the altar of St. Nicholas' Chapel, the arms of the town, and the sword are depicted in stained glass, which was probably fixed there in the reign of Henry the Third.

The town is at present governed by a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, and eighteen common-council-men, a town-clerk, chamberlain, &c.

It has sent two burgesses to Parliament ever since the twenty-sixth year of King Edward the First. The right of election is vested in the freemen and free-burgesses, consisting of about three hundred and thirty persons, of whom the mayor is the returning officer.

In the year 1643, the inhabitants, aided by the country gentlemen, defended the town against the parliamentary forces under the Earl of Manchester, from the 28th of August, till its surrender on the 16th of September; when it paid 3,200l. to obviate the distresses of being plundered.

Lynn is a large respectable town, standing ten miles from the British ocean, on the eastern bank of the Great Ouse river, which at this place is nearly the breadth of the Thames above London Bridge. It is in length, from the south gate to the block-house at Fisher's end, one mile and a quarter; and in the broadest part, from the river to the east gate, lately taken down, half a mile. Four small rivers, here called *Fleets*, divide it into several parts, over which are eleven bridges. The whole is encompassed on the land side by a deep wet foss, flanked by a strong wall, now in a dilapidated state, which was formerly defended by nine bastions. At the north end is a platform battery, mounted with ten eighteen pounders, planted here in 1627, and still called St. Anne's Fort; but having no defensive cover, could be of little use if the town were attacked from the river-side. It is forty-two miles W. N. W. of Norwich, and 106 W. by N. of London. By the population survey made in the year 1801, the number of houses was 2,300, which were occupied by 10,095 inhabitants.

The

The town contains several public buildings, some of which exhibit curious and fine specimens of architectural antiquity. The principal of these is the *Church of St. Mary*, which, with a *priory*, was founded by Herbert, bishop of Norwich, in the time of William Rufus. The founder granted forty days pardon to all persons who contributed towards the erection of the buildings, and the priory was constituted a cell to the monastery of Norwich. The *church* was a large spacious structure, and though curtailed of its original dimensions, is still a noble pile. Internally, it displays a nave, with ailes, which constitute the present place for service; a chancel, or choir, with ailes; a transept, and two towers at the west end. The roof is supported by twenty-two columns; of which those east of the transept, are formed by a cluster of five shafts to each. In this part of the building are some ancient carved stalls, and several flat monumental stones, with inscriptions; also some very large and fine brasses. At the east end is a circular window, with ten transverse mullions. This part of the church is divided from the transept by a wooden screen, which was erected in 1622. A lofty tower, or lanthorn, is said to have been originally at the intersection of the cross ailes; and a high spire to have surmounted one of the western towers. The latter display different styles of architecture, and the lower parts of them are very ancient. The buttresses of the angles to the southern tower, consist of several small shafts of columns *.

The church formerly contained numerous brasses and inscriptions, some of which remain. In the year 1645, in the churchwarden's books is the following entry, "Item, to William King, for *defacing superstitious epitaphs, 5s.*" A miserable reward for a more miserable service.

The Charnel Hall, on the north-west side of the churchyard, is the present *grammar-school*.

Several other religious houses were founded here, few vestiges



* The accompanying view will serve to shew the shapes of these towers, and their various ornaments, with the great western window, &c.

of which remain, except a hexagon *steeple*, belonging to the monastery of the *Grey Friars*, which serves as a good land-mark to vessels entering the harbour*. At the eastern extremity of the town is a curious ancient building, called THE LADY'S CHAPEL, or *The Red Mount*. It has been erroneously named a *castle*, but is evidently an ecclesiastical structure. It consists of an octagonal wall of red brick, and is constructed on a very singular plan, of which, perhaps, not a similar example is to be found in the kingdom. Within the exterior wall is a handsome cruciform chapel, measuring, from east to west, seventeen feet seven inches, by fourteen, from north to south, and thirteen in height. The roof is formed of stone, with numerous groins, &c. and exactly resembles the much-admired ceiling of King's College Chapel, Cambridge. This curious building is in a dilapidated state, and it is much feared will soon fall a victim to neglect and wantonness. Such a singular edifice should be carefully preserved, and as the expence to effect this would be trivial, it is hoped the corporation, to whom it belongs, will not neglect it, and thereby entail on themselves the perpetuating reproaches of history, and the lasting censures of antiquarian record †.

ST. NICHOLAS CHAPEL, conjectured to be built about the time of Edward the Third, is two hundred feet long, seventy-eight broad, and one hundred and seventy feet from the foundation to the top of the tower. The body consists of a nave, separated from the ailes by ten slender columns on each side; these support an equal number of acutely pointed arches, over which are twelve clerestory windows on each side. On the south side is an elegant porch, abundantly decorated with sculptured niches, shields, canopies, &c. The roof is groined, and the entrance door finely carved, to correspond with the style of the architecture.

* A view of this curious architectural remnant is engraved to accompany this description, from an accurate sketch, by the Rev. E. Edwards.

† It is my intention to preserve a *plan*, *view* of the interior, and *section* of it in the third volume of the Architectural Antiquities.

ture. In the chapel are also some old seats, charged with curious specimens of carving. The east and west windows are very large and handsome, and display several perpendicular mullions, with tracery.

A large *monument* of white marble, in the shape of a sarcophagus, commemorates *Sir Benjamin Keene, K. B.* who was many years embassador from this country to the court of Madrid; at which city he died, December 15, 1757. He was a native of this town, and his remains were brought here to be interred.

THE CHAPEL OF ST. JAMES, after the dissolution, being in a ruinous condition, was rebuilt, in the year 1682, by the benefactions of the mayor and corporation, aided by contributions from the principal inhabitants. It was then converted into an *hospital*, for fifty old men, women, and poor children. Great additions have since been made to the building, and it having been placed under the controul of the guardians of the poor, is now the general workhouse for the whole town.

THE EXCHANGE, or CUSTOM HOUSE, was erected in the year 1683, by Sir John Turner, Knt. It is a handsome freestone building, with two tiers of pilasters, the lower in the Doric, and the upper in the Ionic order, with a small open turret, terminating in a pinnacle. In a niche, in front, is a statue of King Charles the Second. This building contains several commodious apartments, and occupies the site of an old religious house, which was appropriated to the Trinity Guild.

THE TUESDAY MARKET-PLACE comprises a spacious area of three acres, and is surrounded by some good houses. At one end, on an ascent of four steps, stands a *market cross*, of freestone, erected in the year 1710. The lower part is encompassed by a handsome peristyle, formed by sixteen columns of the Ionic order. Over this is a walk, secured by an iron balustrade, including a neat octagonal room; the outside walls of which are ornamented with four niches, containing the statues of the cardinal virtues. The upper part is finished with a cupola, in which hangs the market-bell, and the whole is seventy feet in height.

The foundation having given way, it is thought the building must be taken down. From the cross, in a semicircular direction on each side, extends a range of covered stalls or shambles, having a small turret at each end*.

*The Saturday market* is kept in a convenient area, lately opened, near St. Margaret's church-yard, and capacious shambles have been erected.

THE THEATRE was a hall belonging to St. George's guild, and for some years used as the court-house for holding the quarter sessions of the peace for the county of Norfolk. Near St. Mary's church is the GUILDHALL, an ancient building of stone and flint. It contains a large stone hall, assembly-rooms, and courts for the administration of justice, &c. Here are the following *portraits*:—Full length of Sir ROBERT WALPOLE, who was returned member for this borough seventeen times; and so completely was it under his control, that even after he was expelled the House of Commons, he continued member for this place:—Half-length of SIR THOMAS WHITE, Knt. the liberal benefactor to young tradesmen:—A half-length of SIR BENJAMIN KEENE, Knt. The Assembly-rooms are capacious, and consist of three in a line. The first, formed out of the old town-hall, is fifty-eight feet in length, by twenty-seven wide, and proportionably lofty. The Ball-room is sixty feet long, twenty-seven broad, and twenty-two feet high. The Card-room is twenty-seven feet by twenty-seven, and twenty-two feet in height.

The town not having any fresh springs, was formerly much distressed for water; but it is now supplied from a river near Gaywood, whence the water is conveyed by small canals, of between two and three miles in extent, to the conduits in the town.

In the year 1803 an act of parliament was obtained for paving, and otherwise improving the town; the powers of which were further

* A view of these buildings, with a plan of the town, a view of it, &c. are published in Vol. VIII. of the new edition of Blomefield's History.

further extended in 1806. By virtue of this, many of the streets have been new paved, obstructions and other nuisances removed; and the avenue from the south gates, instead of opening, as formerly, through the narrowest and worst-built streets, has been directed more to the east; and now presents to the traveller an approach superior to that of most other maritime towns in the kingdom. The bridges over the fleets have been made lower and wider, and a communication opened over Purfleet-bridge for carriages. The projected improvements were estimated to cost 20,000l. exclusive of the annual expence for lighting, cleansing, &c. but that sum has been found inadequate to the intended purposes; and in lieu of an assessment of two shillings in the pound upon the rack-rent, the inhabitants at present pay two shillings and six-pence, and the commissioners are empowered to levy a tax of three shillings in the pound.

Lynn Harbour is deep, but the anchorage is bad, from the oozy bed of the river. It is capable of receiving about three hundred sail of shipping. At what time it was first used as a haven is not ascertained. Camden is of opinion, that the port was originally at West-Lynn, on the opposite side of the river; but it is improbable, as no records exist to prove that this was ever more than an inconsiderable village. The river passing between both those places, was merely a narrow stream, and consisted of the water of the Little Ouse only. A change occurred in the direction of that river, about the time of Henry the Third*. Subsequent

* In former ages the channel at Lynn was not more than six poles wide. But the outfall at Wisbeach decaying, the Great Ouse river was conveyed to the sea by a new cut made from Littleport Chair to Rebeck. By this accumulation of waters, brought by that famous river from many of the midland counties, after a course of 150 miles, the channel was gradually worn wider; so that some centuries ago it was in the narrowest part between fifty and sixty poles in breadth; and yet it is "now much narrower than any navigable river in the world, so near the outfall."

Armstrong's History of the ancient and present State of the Navigation of the Port of King's Lynn. p. 1—5.

sequent to whose reign Lynn aspired to commercial consequence, and gradually rose from its primitive obscurity, and progressively became a considerable port.

After the plans for draining the fens, called the Bedford level, were put into execution, and the sluices at Denver and Salter's-Lode erected, the navigation of the river became much impaired, and the harbour obstructed by silt, which was thrown up at high spring tides. Upon a petition of the inhabitants against the conduct of the commissioners for draining the level, a survey and report were made by Colonel John Armstrong, in the year 1724. From which it appears, that all the mischiefs complained of had arisen from the numerous obstructions made to the ascent of the tides up the river, and the confluence of the upland waters; particularly after the hundred feet drain, and the sluice at Denver had been made. Previously the refluant tide descended with such amazing rapidity, that the ships in Lynn harbour were obliged to be moored with a *stream cable*. For cleansing the mouth of the river of the shifting sands, and otherwise improving the navigation, the able engineer proposed, that every thing connected with the Great and Little Ouse rivers should be restored to the state, as nearly as possible, in which it was anterior to the execution of the new drainage scheme *. By the same report it appears that, in the year 1723, the tide of flood ran through Lynn Haven ordinarily three hours and four minutes, and that the common spring tides rose in height at that time fourteen feet four inches †. Though the haven is not a quarter of a mile wide, yet, about six miles above Lynn, at Knight's-Gout, the river is a mile broad, and immediately below the town expands into a wide estuary. On some occasions the tide flows in extremely rapid, and is called

* Armstrong's History of the Ancient and Present State, &c. p. 104 and 109.

† "The spring tides flow more than twenty feet perpendicular, if a north east wind accompanies, and sometimes force the ships in the harbour from their moorings, though ten miles distant from the sea." Norfolk Tour, p. 212.

called the *bore* or *eager*; and, like this kind of tide, wherever it happens, is occasioned by a sudden curvature in the channel of the river. The distance from Lynn to St. German's bridge is three miles by land, and by water nearly seven. A scheme has lately been proposed, to improve the drainage of the fens, by cutting a spacious canal from the town to a part of the river called Eaw-bank, and diverting the waters into it from the present channel. A strait cut, in this direction, was proposed by Colonel Armstrong, in the year 1723, of 200, or 250 feet wide; and the expence of such a cut was estimated, by a Mr. Kindersley, at 15,000l. But a much larger sum has been already expended in carrying a bill for the purpose through parliament, in consequence of a powerful opposition; and a greater sum awarded for purchasing the necessary lands. The making of the new channel, which is proposed shall be 800 feet wide between the banks at the lower opening, is conjectured will cost upwards of 100,000l.

The situation of this port, so near the North Sea, and the inland navigation which is connected with it, gives the town great commercial advantages. It is open to a communication with all the north of Europe; and by means of the Ouse, and its collateral rivers, can extend its navigation into eight counties, exclusive of the other conveyances by land carriage and canals. "It imports annually about 100,000 chaldrons of coals, and above 2,000 pipes of wine; in which two articles it exceeds all other ports in England, except London, Bristol, and Newcastle*." In return for these and other heavy articles, with which it supplies the interior, it receives back for exportation corn and various manufactured articles. Prior to the present French war its foreign trade was very considerable, especially to the Baltic, Norway, Holland, Portugal, and Spain. The yearly average of corn exported has been already stated; and by the report of the commissioners for auditing the public accounts, in the year 1784, the annual duties of Lynn exceeded those of all the English ports, excepting those of London, Bristol, Liverpool, and Hull.

BABINGLY

* Norfolk Tour, p. 249.

BABINGLY is the village at which the *first Christian church* in East-Anglia is stated to have been erected. It was dedicated to St. Felix, the Burgundian, who converted the East-Angles. Sir Henry Spelman says, several hills, called *Christian hills*, in the vicinity, serve to confirm the opinion.

## CASTLE ACRE,

though now an inconsiderable place, displays the remains of an immense CASTLE, and also some large remnants of a priory. The former occupied the southern side of a gently-sloping hill, and consisted of three parts or divisions, all connected, but each separately fortified with valla, fossa, and walls. The earthworks are still very bold, and large masses of the walls remain. At the north-west angle was a lofty keep, nearly circular, with steep glacis, the summit of which was crowned with a wall of great thickness and strength. Branching from this to the south, is a large area of an oblong shape, surrounded by a lofty bank, with a wall and deep ditch. To the east was an entrance, which was guarded by projecting bastions; and to the west was a very large area, or outer ballium, also encompassed with bold castrametations.

At the Conquest this place belonged to the great Earl Warren, who is stated to have erected, upon the site of the older works, a circular castle. The whole fortifications comprised about eighteen acres of ground, environed by an embattled wall, seven feet thick. Though the founder had one hundred and forty lordships in this county, yet he made this his chief residence. He also erected here a PRIORY for monks of the *Clugniac* order, in the year 1085, and made it a cell to the abbey of Lewes, in Sussex. The annual revenues, at the Dissolution, amounted, according to Speed, to 324l. 17s. 5½d.

From the foundations of the ruined walls, which inclosed the buildings of this monastery, the site is estimated to have contained twenty-nine acres, two roods, and ten perches. A part of the prior's

prior's apartments has been converted into a farm-house; and the remains of the priory, with its conventual church, form, perhaps, the finest and most venerable ruin in the county. Great part of the west front remains, as may be seen by the accompanying print, from a drawing by Dayes. Some large columns of the nave, the walls of the transepts, and very considerable remnants of the domestic apartments, to the south of the church, still serve to shew the extent of this monastery. The sizes of the cloisters, the refectory, the great hall, and of many other rooms, may be ascertained. At some distance from the north-west angle of the church, is the porter's lodge. The parish church is a large building, and displays some ancient and curious specimens of architecture; also various pieces of stained glass, and a few ancient monuments.

## CASTLE RISING

is a burgh, or borough, Spelman observes, of such high antiquity, that the royal records furnish no account of it. The sea is stated to have formerly flowed up to the town; which was probably a port, as alluded to in the following traditionary tetrastric verse:—

"Rising was a sea-port town
When Lynn was but a marsh;
Now Lynn it is a sea-port town,
And Rising fares the worse."

A *Castle* was erected at this place by William de Albini, the first Earl of Sussex, some time prior to the year 1176*, on a hill to the south of the town. It was a noble pile, built in the manner

* Mr. King supposes it was one of *Alfred's* great castles, altered and improved, in the reign of Henry the First. Arches are yet remaining characteristic of the style of building used in the time of the Saxon monarchs. "Munimenta Antiqua."

manner of Norwich Castle, and was nearly equal to that fortress in its dimensions. The walls of the keep are mostly three yards thick; and the whole is encompassed by a deep ditch and bold rampart, on which was a strong wall, having three towers. These the possessors of the manors of Hunstanton, Reydon, and the two Wottons, were bound by their tenures constantly to defend. It has but one entrance, which is on the east side, over a stone bridge, at the inner extremity of which was a fortified gate-house. The interior of the castle is much dilapidated. One room, where the court-leet of this lordship used to be held, is more perfect than the other parts. The peculiar situation and character of this castle has already been described. See p. 48.

In this fortress Isabel*, queen of the unfortunate monarch, Edward the Second, after the death of her favourite, Earl Mortimer, was confined from the year 1330 till her death, in 1358. Here she was visited by her son, Edward the Third, and his queen, in 1340; and again by the king in 1344.

The corporation of this borough is very ancient, as appears from the usage of the mayor's name of this place being called over *first*, at the reading of the royal commission of the peace before the judges of assize. It was formerly governed by a mayor, recorder, high-steward, twelve aldermen, a speaker of the commons, and fifty burgesses. At present the corporation consists of only *two* aldermen, who alternately nominally serve the office of mayor; and he is the returning officer *of two members* to the British senate. Though at an election five or *six* names

* She was daughter to Philip the Fair, King of France, and sister to Lewis Hutin, Philip the Long, and Charles the Fair; all of whom were successively kings of France. These dying without issue, Isabel was entitled to the French crown; but by an old statute, which excluded *females*, called the '*Salique law*," she was prevented ascending the throne: and her son, King *Edward the Third*, having been also deprived of his just right, by the advancement of *Philip Valois*, whose father was younger brother to Philip the Fair, made war against France, assumed the title of king, and quartered the arms, three fleurs de lis, with the arms of England.

names appear on the poll-book; yet it is questionable, whether, except the *rector* of the parish, there be a single legal voter *. The borough first sent members to parliament in the year 1558.

Near the east end of the church-yard is a square building, called the *Almshouse*, containing thirteen apartments, a spacious hall, kitchen, and chapel, for the accommodation of a governess and twelve poor women. It was founded by Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, in the reign of King James the First.

The *Church* is an ancient, curious structure, and presents in its western front some singular architectural ornaments. Intersecting arches, columns with spiral and diamond-shaped mouldings, having the archivolt mouldings nearly similar, and with grotesque heads for capitals, mark the peculiar features of this facade. The Church consists of only one aile, with a square tower near the centre. The *font* is a large ancient piece of workmanship †.

CONGHAM gave birth to the great SIR HENRY SPELMAN, who was celebrated for his knowledge of law and antiquities, son of Henry Spelman, Esq. the lord of this manor. He was born in the year 1564; and first studied in Trinity College, Cambridge, whence he was called to the bar, and soon distinguished himself. He was sheriff of Norfolk in the year 1605, and died at London in 1641. His *Glossary*, *History of Sacrilege*, *Treatise De non temerandis Ecclesiis*, *Icenia*, and other numerous and valuable works, collected and published, with a life prefixed, by Bishop Gibson, are lasting proofs of his learning, zeal, and industry in the cause of science and truth.

SECHEY,

* This borough, though it is not so completely destitute of inhabitants as Old Sarum in Wiltshire, and Midhurst in Sussex, which have neither house nor cottage; yet "*two houses* (in it) return *two members* to parliament." "Oldfield's History of the original Constitution of Parliaments," p. 157.

† A view of this Church from the south-west, with the Almshouses in the back-ground, is given herewith.

## SECHEY, or SETCHEY,

is a very small market-town, situated upon the navigable part of the river Nar, in the parish of Runcton. A market was procured for this place in the reign of King James the First. It is held on Tuesdays, once a fortnight, for the sale of fat cattle; and is well attended by butchers and graziers, from most part of this and the adjoining county of Lincoln.

Flitcham Priory was founded in the reign of Henry the Third, by Sir Robert Aguillon. It was made a cell of Augustine canons to the priory of Walsingham; and not a *nunnery*, as stated by Speed and Weever. At the Dissolution the annual revenues were valued at 62l. 10s. 6½d.; which, with the site, were granted to Edward, Lord Clinton; but soon came into the possession of Sir Thomas Holles.

It has been remarked by many historians, that a certain fatality hung over the heads of all those who trafficked in the lands rapaciously alienated from the church; of which, among multifarious instances, Spelman has adduced the successive proprietors of this monastery. *Sir Thomas Holles*, soon after he came into possession, was arrested, by a writ of execution, for debt, and his lands sold. The *Duke of Norfolk* was attainted and beheaded. Reverting to the crown, it was granted to Thomas Howard, *Earl of Suffolk*, who was tried in the court of star-chamber, turned out of the treasury, and suffered severely by the attainder of his daughter, the Countess of Somerset. The priory was then purchased by *Lord Chief-Justice Coke*, who soon afterwards was disgraced, banished the court, and subsequently led a miserable life. Such extraordinary coincidences may furnish some colouring for the preceding observation.

A few remains of this once extensive and venerable priory are visible in the unhallowed form of barns, stables, and other inferior offices.

Hillington

HILLINGTON PARK, the seat of *Sir Martin Brown Folkes, Bart.* has lately been much improved; and the gardens, with their forcing-walls, pineries, &c. are much admired.

MIDDLETON, was the property of the ancient and celebrated family of *Scales,* who had a seat in the parish, called *Titherington Hall.* The gateway of this, known by the name of *Middleton Castle,* is still standing, and appears to have been the entrance to a large quadrangular building, which was moated round. It is constructed of brick, and has a tower of excellent workmanship, flanked at each angle with octangular turrets. The height is fifty-four feet, the length fifty-one, and the breadth twenty-seven. The turrets are embattled, and rise several feet above the central tower*. On a garter, in a bow window of the story over the archway, are emblazoned the arms of *Scales,* &c. The founder was probably, therefore, Thomas, Lord Scales, Knight of the Garter, in the time of Henry the Sixth †; in which reign and the preceding, he distinguished himself in the French wars.

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## SMITHDON HUNDRED

Lies to the north of Freebridge Lynn, and is bounded on the north by Brancaster bay. The extent from east to west is ten miles, and from north to south nine. The soil, principally a deep rich clay, is naturally fertile: the higher grounds are in open field, or what is provincially termed *brock;* but near the



* A view of this tower, from a drawing by the Rev. E. Edwards, is given in the title page to this volume.

† Some writers say Henry the Fifth; but Lord Scales was elected knight of the garter in the third year of Henry the Sixth. Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. IX. p. 23.

villages they are inclosed; and so early as 1761, five thousand acres of wastes were fenced, and allotted, by act of parliament, in the vicinity of Snettisham. The lands, near the shore, are chiefly marsh; and from the fury of the tides on this part of the coast, severe injuries are frequently sustained. The strongest banks have not been adequate to resist the force of the waves, when aided by a concurring wind. A gale from the north-west is dreaded by the persons who reside near this shore, for the consequence too often is an inundation of the marshes; and it sometimes happens that whole flocks of sheep and herds of cattle are carried away by the waters. This catastrophe, when it happens, is emphatically denominated "*a marsh tide.*"

The money raised in this district, for the support of the poor, in the year 1803, was 4,802l. 12s. 9d.; constituting an average of three shillings and eight-pence halfpenny in the pound rate.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Brancaster*, *Bircham* Great, *Bircham* Newton, *Bircham* Tofts, *Docking*, *Fring*, *Heacham*, *Holme* (next the Sea), *Hunstanton*, *Ingoldesthorpe*, *Ringstead* Great, *Sedgeford*, *Sharnborne*, *Snettisham*, *Stanhoe*, (with Barwick), *Thornham*, and *Titchwell*.

BRANCASTER, at present a large, but obscure village, was anciently a military station, and supposed to have been the *Branodunum* of the Itinerary of Antoninus. When the Saxons began to infest this part of the island, the Romans erected fortresses on the coast, to prevent their incursions. The shores of Norfolk were particularly liable to the attacks of those invaders, against whom two maritime stations, one on the east, and the other on the north-west, were fixed upon for defensive posts; *Gariononum* and *Branodunum*. In the latter were garrisoned the *Dalmatian cavalry**, under a Roman general,

* Branodunum, whence the master of the horse was styled *Branodunensis*. This station is first mentioned in the Notitia. From Yarmouth towards this place a Roman road, called the *Jew's Way*, was seen by Mr. Gale. Horsley's Britannia Romana, p. 476.

general, who was styled, from the nature of his appointment, Count of the Saxon Shore. Numerous urns, coins, &c. found here, are preserved in the cabinets of the curious; and knives and styles, with handles exquisitely wrought, about the size of clasp knives, have also been discovered.

The remains of an *Encampment*, which answers the description given of those formed by the Romans in Cæsar's Commentaries, are still visible; and the area within the ramparts comprizes about eight acres. Near this camp was erected, by a merchant of Burnham, an immense building for malting barley, with a view to the export trade; and under the name of the *great malt-house*, it has been much visited as one of the curiosities of Norfolk. It is a handsome building, and furnished with very convenient offices for conducting the malting process. The length is 312 feet, by 31 in breadth; and during the season 420 quarters of barley have been wetted weekly.

HUNSTANTON, a village standing at the north-western point of the county, is remarkable for what is here denominated an *immense* cliff*, about 100 feet high, called *St. Edmund's Point*, from a tradition, that Edmund the martyr landed here, when he was brought from Germany to be crowned king of East-Anglia. He is said to have built a tower, in which he resided while he committed to memory the whole book of Psalms, in compliance with a previous vow. Some remains of an old chapel on the cliff, dedicated to St. Edmund, probably gave rise to the story.

Near these ruins stands a light-house, lighted upon the improved plan of burning oil in Argand's lamps with reflectors, instead of coal. The light is visible for seven leagues.



* The stratification of this cliff is worthy of notice, as furnishing specimens of the substrata of the part of the county to the south of it. Under the mould, which is about two feet deep, lies a layer of white chalk, then one of hard red clunch, below that mixed stone of a dirty yellow colour, and underneath an exceedingly hard rock, of an iron colour. This latter is what, in a less tenacious form, *grasses*, or comes to day, as miners term it in the neighbourhood of Sandringham, in the hundred of Freebridge Lynn, and other places, where it is usually denominated *carr stone*.

HUNSTANTON HALL, an ancient family mansion erected in the time of Henry the Seventh, now in a ruinous condition, is deserving notice for its entrance gateway, and from having been the seat of the distinguished family of *Le-Strange*. In the centre of the chancel of Hunstanton church stands an altar monument, on which are divers coats of the family arms, and on a fillet of brass round the margin, is a Latin inscription to the memory of *Sir Roger Le-Strange*, the founder of the hall. Of this family was the celebrated political writer, SIR ROGER LE-STRANGE, who was born here, December 17, 1616. On the breaking out of the civil war, he espoused the royal cause. In the year 1634, having obtained a commission, he intended to surprise the town of Lynn, then in possession of the parliament; but his plan having been divulged by two of his associates, he was seized, tried, and condemned to death, which latter punishment was commuted for imprisonment in Newgate. Escaping thence, he fled to the continent, but returned prior to the restoration. Soon afterwards he established a *newspaper*, called, "*The Public Intelligencer and the News*," which was suppressed to make room for the London Gazette, the first paper of which was published, February 4, 1666. By way of compensation, he was made "Licenser of the Press," an appointment at that time of some trust and emolument. He wrote *The Observator*, in defence of government; and on the accession of James the Second, was honored with knighthood. Sir Roger died December 11, 1704.

SNETTISHAM, a large village, was formerly a town, and had a weekly market on Fridays. At this place have been dug up several brass instruments, in the shape of hatchet-heads, with handles to them, usually denominated celts*.

The country around this place has been greatly ornamented by numerous

* Various have been the conjectures of antiquaries respecting the people to whom these instruments belonged, and the uses to which they were applied. Borlase considers them as missile weapons; Thoresby, the head of British spears; and Hearne, portable Roman chissels.

numerous plantations, made by *Nicholas Styleman, Esq.* lord of the manor, who has a neat house here, and the surrounding gardens are much admired for the taste displayed in their disposition and their mode of decoration.

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## BROTHERCROSS HUNDRED,

Situated to the east of Smithdon, extending about eight miles in length, and five in breadth, displays a fine open country, bordering on the sea. This hundred, with Gallow, constitutes the deanry of Burnham, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk.

The money raised in this district, by a parochial rate, in the year 1803, amounted to 2,218l. 6s. 8¾d.; forming an average of three shillings and seven-pence three-farthings in the pound.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Burnham Deepdale, Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy, Burnham Thorpe, Burnham Ulph* and *Sutton, Burnham Westgate, Creake* North, *Creake* South, and *Waterden.*

## BURNHAM WESTGATE, OR BURNHAM MARKET,

So called to distinguish it from other parishes in this hundred, has a small weekly market on Mondays. The parish contains 169 houses, and 743 inhabitants. Here was formerly a small monastery of white friars, or Carmelites.

BURNHAM THORPE will ever be memorable in the annals of fame, for having been the birth-place of that eminently distinguished, and ever-to-be-lamented hero*, the late ADMIRAL



* Norfolk ranks peculiarly high, for having given birth to a long and numerous list of military and naval heroes, whose courage and prowess have been

Lord Nelson, whose father was many years rector of this parish, and also of Burnham Sutton. This distinguished hero in the annals of greatness, was born in the year 1758, and first sent to school to Norwich, and afterwards removed to North Walsham. In the year 1770 he was appointed a midshipman on board the Raisonable, of 64 guns, which was commanded by his maternal uncle, Captain Maurice Suckling. When the voyage of discovery, towards the North Pole, was undertaken by Lord Mulgrave, young Nelson solicited to attend, as coxswain to Captain Lutwidge, who, though an order had been given to take on board no boys, yet struck with the ardour of the youth, was induced to receive him in that capacity. He afterwards served under the valiant Captain Farmer, of the Sea-horse. Having passed the ordeal of lieutenancy, and obtained the rank of post captain, June 11, 1779, he was appointed to the command of the Hinchinbroke. In 1796 he was made a commodore, and hoisted a broad pendant. For his conduct under Sir John Jervis, against the Spanish fleet off Cape St. Vincent, he was created Knight of the Bath. In 1797 he hoisted his flag as a Rear-Admiral. In the unfortunate affair at Teneriffe, he lost his right arm by a cannon shot. He now obtained a pension of 1000l. per annum; and the memorial, on that occasion, details some incidents of a life filled with enterprize, difficulties, and danger. "That he had been in four actions with hostile fleets; in three actions with frigates; in six engagements against batteries; in ten actions in boats, employed in cutting out vessels, &c. During the war, he had assisted at the capture of seven sail of the line, six frigates,

been displayed in some of the most critical periods of our history. Can this be physically accounted for? Is it according to the doctrine of Aristotle, alluded to by Horace, that "*Fortes creantur fortibus et bonis?*" or is it that in mental procedure, the stimulus of example, produces positive qualities? At *Cock Thorpe*, in the adjacent hundred of North Greenhoe, were born the distinguished admirals, *Sir John Narford*, *Sir Christopher Mynnes*, and *Sir Cloudesley Shovel*. At Docking, in Smithdon hundred, was born *Admiral Edward Hawke*, afterwards *Lord Hawke*.

frigates, four corvettes, and eleven privateers, and taken and destroyed fifty sail of merchant-vessels. That he had been engaged against the enemy upwards of *one hundred and twenty times.*" Of his exploits in the battles of the *Nile*, off *Copenhagen*, and *Trafalgar*, history will amply record; and heraldry has already emblazoned the honors so justly conferred by the king on this meritorious officer, as *Baron* and *Viscount* Nelson of the Nile and of Burnham Thorpe, which honors, by his premature death in the year 1805, with the addition of an earldom, at present attach to his elder brother.

SOUTH CREAKE. About half a mile south of the church in this village, is a large ancient *Encampment*, supposed to have been first constructed by the Saxons. The way leading to it is called *Blood-gate*, that is, bloody road, alluding to the great slaughter which, at some period, took place here between the Saxons and the Danes. Towards the sea shore, in the adjacent villages, are many small tumuli, or hillocks, which Camden rightly considers to have been the graves of the slain.

CREAKE ABBEY, in the parish of North Creake, was first founded for a master, four chaplains, and thirteen lay brethren, by Sir Robert de Narford, and Alice his wife. They were afterwards made an abbot and canons of the Augustine order. This abbey, with all the lands annexed to it, was given to Christ's College, Cambridge, by Margaret, Countess of Richmond. Part of the abbey walls still remain, and form a fine venerable ruin.

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## NORTH GREENHOE HUNDRED,

West of Brothercross, is about nine miles in length, and seven in breadth. The soil is chiefly light, with a substratum of fine

marl, and the face of the country beautifully diversified, which seen from Great Snoring church, is highly picturesque, the ocean terminating the landscape. This hundred is in the deanery of Walsingham, and archdeaconry of Norfolk.

The sum raised for the poor, in the year 1803, was 6,234l. 14s. 5¼d.; giving an average of five shillings and three-farthings in the pound rate.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Burney, Binham, Cockthorpe, Egmore, Field Dalling, Hindringham, Holkham, Houghton* St. Giles in the Hole, *Snoring* Great, *Stiffkey, Thursford, Walsingham* Great, *Walsingham* Little, *Warham, Wells,* and *Wighton.*

## NEW WALSINGHAM,

A considerable market town, is situated on the banks of a small river, which falls into the sea at the distance of about seven miles to the north. The grounds on each side of the dale rises in a bold manner, and exhibit rather unusual features for this county. The plantations of Mr. Warner, enriched with the ruins of the abbey and the small spire of the church, afford a picturesque coup d'oeil, as the traveller enters the place either from Fakenham or Wells. This parish, conjointly with

OLD WALSINGHAM, formed one lordship, and was part of the possessions of the powerful Earls of Clare. What led to the great celebrity which this place obtained for centuries, was the widow lady of *Ricoldie Faverches* founding, about the year 1061, a small *chapel* in honour of the Virgin Mary, similar to the Sancta Casa at Nazareth.

Sir Geffrey de Faveraches, or Faverches, her son, confirmed the endowments, made an additional foundation of a *Priory* for Augustine canons, and erected a conventual church. The numerous gifts and grants to this famous religious house form one of those extensive and dull mazes of ecclesiastical record, through which

which the historic topographer is constrained to wade. At the dissolution, the annual revenues of the monastery were valued, according to Speed, at 446l. 14s. 4d. That its wealth should have been immensely great, is not surprising, when the fame of the image of the *Lady of Walsingham* is taken into the account; for it was as much frequented, if not more, than the shrine of St. Thomas à Becket, at Canterbury. Foreigners of all nations came hither on pilgrimage; many kings* and queens of England also paid their devoirs to it; so that the number and quality of her devotees appeared to equal those of the Lady Loretto, in Italy. Erasmus, who visited this place, says, that the chapel, then rebuilding, was distinct from the church, and inside of it was a small chapel of wood, on each side of which was a little narrow door, where those who were admitted came with their offerings, and paid their devotions; that it was lighted up with wax torches, and that the glitter of gold, silver, and jewels, would lead you to suppose it to be the seat of the gods†.

The present remains of this once noble monastic pile, is a portal, or west entrance gateway, a richly ornamented lofty arch, sixty feet high, which formed the east end of the church, supposed to have been erected in the time of Henry the Seventh; the refectory seventy-eight feet long and twenty-seven broad, and the walls twenty-six and a half feet in height; a saxon arch, part of the original chapel, which has a zigzag moulding; part of the

* Spelman observes, that it was said King Henry the Eighth, in the second year of his reign, walked *barefooted* from the village of Basham to this place, and then presented a valuable necklace to the image. Of this costly present, as well as other saleable appendages, Cromwell doubtless took good care, when, by his master's order, he seized the image, and burnt it at Chelsea.

† In one of his colloquies, entitled, "*Perigrinatio*," is a very humorous description of the superstitions of this place. The monks had contrived to persuade many, that the *galaxy* in the heavens was a miraculous indication of the *way* to this place. Hence that was called *Walsingham Way*.

the old cloisters, a stone bath, and two uncovered wells, called the *Wishing Wells**. The principal part of these venerable ruins are included in the pleasure-gardens of *Henry Lee Warner, Esq.* who has a large, commodious house, which occupies the site of the priory. The present proprietor has progressively, for some years past, been making various improvements in planting, and laying out the grounds in the immediate vicinity of the mansion. Among the recent embellishments of the place is a new bridge across the rivulet, in front of the house, and widening the course of the stream, so as to give it the appearance of a lake. Contiguous to this water, and intermixed in a fine grove of large trees, are the various fragments of the ruins already noticed. Some of these are interesting relics of architectural antiquity; and though several detached parts remain, yet we cannot but regret the wasteful destruction that has taken place at this once celebrated place of monastic splendour and human superstition.

The *Church* at Walsingham is a large and interesting pile, displaying in its architecture, ornaments, monuments, and very elegant FONT, much to interest and gratify the antiquary. The latter is not only the finest specimen of the sort in the county, but perhaps in England. It is of an octangular shape, and the whole of its base, shaft, and projecting upper portion, is covered with sculpture, representing buttresses, pinnacles, niches, crocketted pediments, &c. also several figures in basso relievo. It is elevated on a plinth of four steps, the exterior faces of which are also decorated with tracery mouldings.

There was a house of *grey friars* in Walsingham, founded by the Lady Elizabeth de Burgh, Countess of Clare, but its fame was eclipsed by the superior grandeur of its neighbour, and poverty thrust it still further into the back ground of obscurity.

What

* The devotees to the Lady of Walsingham were taught to believe, that whoever had permission to drink of those waters could obtain, under certain restrictions, whatever they might wish for.

What is at present used as a Bridewell, was also an *hospital* for *lazars*, which was founded in the year 1486.

BINHAM PRIORY has been a building of great extent and liberal endowment. The ruins are now very considerable and interesting; but are gradually mouldering away. Of the once spacious collegiate church, only the nave, with the north aile, the chief part of the western front, and fragments of the transept, remain. Excepting the west facade, the whole is of the early Norman style of architecture, and most probably constitutes part of the original structure founded in the beginning of the reign of King Henry the First. The nave and north aile are appropriated as the parish church, but it must be a very unhealthy, uncomfortable place in winter. It is fitted up with seats, or benches, and at the west end is a handsome font. The interior elevation of the nave shews three tiers, of seven arches, on each side; the two lowermost of which are semicircular, whilst those in the top row are partly of that shape, and partly pointed*. The exterior of the western front is wholly in the pointed style, and is an interesting specimen of the ecclesiastical architecture of the fourteenth century. In the lower part are displayed a grand central, and two lateral doorways, with blank arcades between. Over the former is a large centre window, which was originally ornamented with five upright columnar mullions, and three circular compartments of tracery mouldings.

HOLKHAM HOUSE, in the parish of *Holkham*, the magnificent seat and residence of Thomas William Coke, Esq. was began

* A view of this is given herewith, shewing four compartments on the north side of the nave, with the wooden stalls, and the handsome *font*, from a drawing made by Mr. Mackenzie, in the year 1808. This font is similar in shape, though differing in ornament and size, to that just described, at Walsingham: also to those at Wymondham, Norwich Cathedral, East Dereham, and to some others in this county.

began in the year 1734, by the Earl of Leicester, and completed by his dowager countess in the year 1760. The central part of this spacious mansion, built of white brick, is accompanied by four wings, or pavilions, which are connected with it by rectilinear corridors, or galleries; each of the two fronts, therefore, display a centre and two wings. The south front presents an air of lightness and elegance, arising from the justness of its proportions. In the centre is a bold portico, with its entablature supported by six Corinthian columns. The north front is the grand or principal entrance, and exhibits different, though handsome features. The wings, which partake of similar characterictics, have been thought to diminish from the general magnificence of the building, by the want of uniformity of style with the south front, and being too much detached to be consistent with unity. The centre, which extends three hundred and forty-five feet in length, by one hundred and eighty in depth, comprises the principal apartments. Each wing has its respective destination. One contains the kitchens, servants' hall, and some sleeping rooms. In the chapel wing is the dairy, laundry, with more sleeping rooms. Another contains the suite of family apartments; and the fourth, called the stranger's wing, is appropriated to visitors.

This grand residence is rendered superior to most other great houses in the kingdom, by its *convenience* and appropriate arrangement. The entrance *hall,* which forms a cube, has a gallery round it, supported by twenty-four Ionic columns. Next is the *saloon,* on each side of which is a drawing-room; and connected to this is the *state dressing-room* and *bedchamber.* Another *drawing-room* communicates with the *statue gallery,* which connects a number of apartments in a most admirable manner; for one octagon opens into the private wing, and the other into the strangers, on one side; and into the dining-room on the other. This dining-room is on one side of the hall; and on the other is Mrs. Coke's bed-room, dressing-room, and closets. From the recess in the dining-room opens a door on the staircase, which immediately

immediately leads to the offices; and in the centre of the wings, by the saloon door, are invisible stair-cases, which lead to all the rooms and respective offices. Thus here are four general suites of apartments, all perfectly distinct from each other, with no reciprocal thorough fares; the state, Mrs. Coke's, the late earls, and the strangers. These severally open into what may be called common rooms, the hall, statue gallery, and saloon, all which communicate with the dining-room. There may be houses larger and more magnificent, and in some more uniformity and justness of proportion may be visible; but human genius could not contrive any thing in which convenience could be more apparent than it is in this *. The fitting up of the interior is in the most splendid style, and, in numerous instances, with the most elegant taste. The cielings of many of the rooms are of curious gilt, fret, and mosaic work; the Venetian windows are ornamented with handsome pillars, and also profusely gilded. The marble chimney-pieces are all handsome; but three are peculiarly deserving attention, for their exquisite sculpture. Two are in the dining-room, one ornamented with a sow and pigs, and a wolf; the other has a bear and beehives, finely sculptured in white marble. A third, in the state bed-room, representing two pelicans, is exceedingly chaste and beautiful. The marble side-boards, agate-tables, rich tapestry, silk furniture, beds, &c. are all in the same sumptuous style of elegance.

The *Statue Gallery* consists of a central part and two octagonal ends. The first is seventy feet long, by twenty-two feet wide, and each octagon, of twenty-two feet in diameter, opens to the centre by an handsome arch. One end is furnished with books, and the other with statues, &c. Among the latter, the figure of *Diana* is extremely fine. A Venus, clothed with wet drapery, is considered exquisite. The *Saloon* is forty feet long, twenty eight

* The plan of Holkham House was first devised by the Earl of Leicester and the Earl of Burlington, assisted by Mr. Kent, from the designs of Palladio, and Inigo Jones. The building was superintended by Mr. *Bretingham*, whose son has published Plans, Elevations, &c. of the Structure.

eight wide, and thirty-two in height. This room, appropriated for paintings, contains many by the most eminent masters; but they are not exclusively preserved in this; a vast collection being distributed over most of the apartments throughout the house*.

In a brief statement it will be impossible to give a just and adequate delineation of the pleasure-grounds and park, with the various objects which environ and decorate this museum of taste and seat of hospitality. The first entrance, as it may be termed, is by a triumphal arch, finely imagined, and its effect heightened by several clumps of trees, which surround it. Crossing the turnpike road, a narrow vista, through a plantation for a mile and a half, exhibits at the extremity an obelisk standing on an eminence. At the bottom of the hill are two lodges, which are small, but neat structures. Ascending the hill through a fine plantation near the obelisk, several charming vistas present to the eye the south front of the house, Holkham-quay, the town of Wells, Stifkey Hills, Thorpe Lodge, Overy-quay, the triumphal arch, and the village church. On the north side of the park, a lake, covering about twenty acres, extends in nearly a rectilinear direction for 1056 yards; it includes a small island, and the shore is bold, and finely clothed with wood.

STIFFKEY is thus described by Mr. Arthur Young. "The road from Wareham by Stifkey is through a much more picturesque country than is commonly met with in Norfolk. The road runs on the brow of a hill, looking down on Stifkey vale. The vale, which is composed of the finest verdure, winds in a very beautiful manner from out of a thicket of woody inclosures, and retires behind a projecting hill; an humble stream glides

† A catalogue raisonèe of this fine collection, would furnish matter for a volume; and to give the mere names of the subjects, &c. would be to exclude more important description, while, at the same time, to select, amidst so much excellence, is difficult; and if done, might fail to give the desired satisfaction. Few, if any, collections in the kingdom, contain so many paintings by that inimitable artist, *Claude Lorraine*.

glides through it, and adds a chearfulness which water can alone confer. The hills rise in a bold manner; they are bare of wood, but that is compensated by the thick inclosures in which the village is scattered, forming, with its church in the dip of the hill, and that of Blakeney above it, in a prouder situation, a most complete and pleasing picture*." The scenery is heightened by the castellated mansion of STIFFKEY HALL, which is now in a ruinous state, and occupied by a farmer. The house, still presenting some circular towers, &c. was built by *Sir Nicholas Bacan*, Knt. Lord-Keeper of the Privy Seal, in the time of Queen Elizabeth. The arms are on the gate way, and the date 1604. The west front, with two embrasured towers, present more uniformity than most houses built at the same period. Situated in the bottom of a sequestered vale, environed with lofty trees, and a stream slowly meandering by the side, cast an additional gloom over this dilapidated mansion. At a small distance is

WAREHAM, the seat of *Sir Martin Browne Folkes, Bart.* This domain, in point of situation, is considered one of the most beautiful in Norfolk. The view, that suddenly breaks upon the traveller in his approach through a dense wood of firs, in the road from London, is peculiarly striking. It discloses the house on the brow of a gently rising hill, flanked on the sides and back ground with lofty plantations of fifty years growth, whose dark shade forms a fine contrast to the brilliancy of the landscape.

Near the village of Wareham is a large *encampment*, with a triple foss, &c. including about nine acres. The whole is nearly of a circular form, and the ramparts are at present thirty feet high. Two other entrenchments, of less dimensions, are in the adjoining parish, and together are known by the name of *the boroughs*. A morass near the largest is called *Sweno Meadow*, whence it is inferred that they were formed by the Danish leader Swayne.

WELLS,

* View of the Agriculture, &c. of Norfolk.

## WELLS,

Though it has neither fair nor market, by charter, is a small sea-port town. It possesses a good harbour, with a deep channel; but difficult of access, owing to the shifting sands, for a strong north or north-east wind at times proves fatal to the shipping off its mouth. From not having sufficient back water to carry the silt out to sea, it has long been accumulating, to the great injury of the port. This was occasioned by enclosing and embanking the adjoining salt-marshes, and running banks across several of the creeks, which has hindered the spring tides from expanding, and the neap tides from flowing up the creeks as they formerly did *. The causes of this decay of the port became a subject of litigation between the heirs of the late Sir John Turner, Bart. and the merchants of the town, which involved questions of great importance to the proprietors of salt marshes on every part of the coast †. Previous to the present war, Wells carrried on a considerable trade with Holland, in corn, malt, &c. but its traffic is now chiefly confined to the importation of coals. Lately the town has been much benefited by an oyster fishery.

At HOUGHTON, called *Houghton in the Hole*, and *Houghton le Dale*, to distinguish it from the Houghton in Gallow Hundred, is a small ancient *Chapel*, which appears to have escaped the observation of Blomefield, and Parkin, as it is unnoticed in their history. By the annexed view, from a drawing by the Rev. E. Edwards, the building appears to have been ornamented with crocketed pinnacles, canopied niches, &c.

GALLOW

* Armstrong's History of the Ancient and Present State of the Navigation, &c. of King's Lynn, p. 13.

† This was finally decided in favour of the merchants in the year 1784.

## GALLOW HUNDRED,

On the south of Brothercoss and North Greenhoe, extends in length fifteen miles, and in breadth about seven. It comprehends a tract of rich soil, and highly diversified country. Eighteen parishes belong to the deanery of Burnham, in the arch-deaconry of Norfolk; and eleven to the deanery of Toftrees, in the arch-deaconry of Norwich.

The sum raised in this district for the maintenance of the poor, in the year 1803, was 5,934l. 11s. 3¼d.; producing an average of three shillings and eleven-pence farthing in the pound rate.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Althorpe*, *Bagthorpe*, *Barmer*, *Basham* East, *Basham* North, *Basham* West, *Broomsthorpe*, *Dunton* (with Doughton), *Fakenham* Lancaster, *Fulmodeston* (with Croxton), *Helhoughton*, *Hempton*, *Houghton-in-the-Brake*, *Kettleston*, *Pensthorpe*, *Pudding* Norton, *Rainham* East, *Rainham* South St. Martin, *Rainham* West, *Rudham* Esat, *Rudham* West, *Ryburgh* Magna, *Ryburgh* Parva, *Scoulthorpe*, *Shereford*, *Snoring* Little, *Stibbard*, *Syderstone*, *Tatterford*, *Tattersett*, *Testerton*, and *Toft Trees*.

## FAKENHAM

Is a small town, having a good corn-market weekly on Thursdays, which is mostly attended by the merchants from Wells and other contiguous ports. The quarter-sessions for this part of the county were formerly held, alternately at this town, and at Walsingham; but since the turn of this place has been removed to Holt, the sessions-house has been appropriated to a school.

The *Church* is a large, commodious structure, consisting of a nave, with two ailes, chancel, south porch, and lofty stone tower. The latter has a fine western entrance door-way, with a large win-

dow over it. This is divided into six lights, and subdivided by a horizontal mullion, and tracery mouldings. On each side of the door is a canopied niche, and the buttresses are ornamented with pannelling*, &c. The church is kept clean and neat, and in it is an ornamented octangular *font*.

HOUGHTON HALL, in the parish of *Houghton*, is the seat of the right honourable *Earl of Cholmondeley*, who inherits it from the late Horace, Earl of Orford†. This stately mansion was began in the year 1722, by the celebrated Sir Robert Walpole‡, and finished in the year 1735; during which time the founder continued prime minister of state. It is a noble free-stone structure, having two principal fronts, ornamented at each corner with a cupola. The west front presents a double ballustraded flight of steps, and over the entrance is an entablature, supported by four Ionic columns. The wings, which contain the offices, are connected with the fronts by handsome ballustraded colonnades. The extent of the principal front is one hundred and sixty-six feet, and, including the colonnades, four hundred and fifty feet§.

The interior contains numerous magnificent apartments, fitted up with the greatest taste, and in the most sumptuous manner. The

* A print, representing the lower part of the tower, is annexed.

† HORATIO, brother of Sir Robert WALPOLE, was born at Houghton, Dec. 8, 1678. See copious Memoirs of this gentleman, by the Rev. Wm. Coxe, in 2 vols. 8vo. 1808.

‡ See Memoirs of Sir Robert Walpole, by the Rev. Wm. Coxe, 3 vols. 8vo.

§ Few modern buildings, either in public or domestic architecture, are equal to the noble remains of antiquity. They convey no ideas of unbounded hospitality, bespeak no pride of family greatness, impress no awe of enormous wealth, nor call to our remembrance the dignity, power, and influence of the founders. *Houghton* and *Holkham Halls* are, however, exceptions. These fill the mind with every thing that magnificence can inspire, and excite strong images of the power, wealth, and grandeur, of the illustrious builders.

The great hall is a cube of forty feet, having a gallery running three quarters round it. The saloon, had it been proportionate, would have been the finest room in the kingdom; the length is forty feet, breadth thirty, and height forty. These, with the library, dining parlour, drawing-room, bedchamber, and dressing-room, with closet, form one side of the house. The apartments of the other are a drawing-room, parlour, two bed-chambers, with dressing-rooms, and the cabinet-room. Though there are still numerous fine statues and paintings, yet, whoever has formerly visited Houghton, or read a description of the once famous *collection of pictures*, must deeply regret, that a treasury of art, obtained at so much labour and expence, and so invaluable from the taste which had been displayed in its selection, should be permitted to pass into a foreign country*.

RAINHAM HALL is delightfully situated by nature, and the grounds have been greatly improved by the late proprietor, *the Marquis Townshend.* The building is rather in the style of a good and comfortable, than a magnificent habitation. It was erected in the year 1630, under the direction of the celebrated architect, *Inigo Jones.*

The house contains a few paintings, amongst which is the famous picture of *Belisarius*, by *Salvator Rosa;* a present to Charles Lord Viscount Townshend, Secretary of State, from Frederic the Great, King of Prussia. Mr. Gilpin, in the work just referred to, has given a particular account of the composition, colouring, effect, &c. of this much-noted picture. The print, he

 says,

* This fine collection was some time since sold to the late Empress of all the Russias, previously to which engravings had been made from the principal pictures, and published by Boydel. This work, which consists of 120 plates, and comprises about 200 of the pictures, was sold in fourteen numbers, at two guineas each. Horace Walpole first published a descriptive catalogue of the collection; and spoke of almost every picture in terms of praise. Mr. Gilpin visited the house in 1769, and examined the collection. Since his decease, the result of that examination has been published in "*Observations on several parts of the Counties of Cambridge and Norfolk*," &c. in which are many judicious criticisms on the principal pictures.

says, gives but an inadequate idea of the painting*. Here is also a very fine *Portrait* of MARY DE MEDICIS, by Rubens.

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## LAUNDITCH HUNDRED

Lies to the south of Gallow, and extends in length about twelve miles, and in breadth nearly ten; comprehending a large tract of rich and highly improved land. The country is greatly diversified, well watered, and studded with good houses of the gentry. This district, exclusive of two parishes, Colkirk, and Hoe, is in the deanery of Brisley, and Archdeaconry of Norwich.

The money raised for the maintenance of the poor in the year 1803, amounted to the sum of 5,802l. 12s. 0d. being an average of two shillings and ten-pence halfpenny in the pound rate.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Beeston* (with Bittering) *Beetley, Bilney* East, *Brisley, Colkirk, Dunham* Great, *Dunham* Little, *Elmham* North, *Fransham* Great, *Fransham* Little, *Gateley, Gressenhall, Hoe, Horningtoft, Kempston, Lexham* East, *Lexham* West, *Litcham, Longham, Mileham, Oxwick,* (cum Patchley) *Rougham, Scarning, Stanfield, Swanton-Morley, Tittleshall* (cum Godwick) *Weasenham* All Saints, *Weasenham* St. Peter's, *Wendling, Wellingham, Whissonsett,* and *Worthing.*

*Elmham,* now a village, was a city and seat of the Bishops of Norfolk, from about the year 673 to the year 1075. After the see was removed to Norwich, the Bishops of this diocese made it one of their places of residence. Bishop Spencer, in the time of King Richard the Second, obtained a licence to embattle and convert his manor-house here into a castle. It stood on a small hill, surrounded by an entrenchment, which is still remaining, and includes about five acres of land. The inner keep was also encompassed

* In my tour through Norfolk, in 1808, I travelled several miles on purpose to see this picture, but could not obtain admission to the house. J. B.

compassed with a deep foss, which comprehended about two acres. The few remains of this palace are now overgrown with briars and thorns. The extensive park which belonged to it is well stocked with deer, and is the property of Thomas William Coke, Esq. In this parish is

ELMHAM HALL, the seat of Richard Milles, Esq. The house stands in a fine park, which is ornamented with wood and water; and seated on an eminence, commands a variety of pleasing views.

In a piece of ground called Broomclose, about half a mile from the village of NORTH ELMHAM, a variety of *urns*, without covers, have been dug up. These were of divers sizes, colors, &c. and contained bones, ashes, pieces of glass, metal, &c. which appeared to have been partially in a state of fusion. In one was a knife, four inches and a half long, having a wrought handle. A dagger, one foot long, with a curiously wrought handle, hilt, and bar, was found in a ditch; and also a green conical glass, four inches in length, three inches diameter at the bottom, and one inch at the top. This was probably a *lachrymatory*, which had been deposited in an urn. A great number of urns and coins were also discovered in a field about a furlong south of the village. These circumstances have induced many to give credit to the opinion that at this place was a Roman town, the residence of a *Flamen*.

MILEHAM, a considerable village, lying on the road from Norwich to Lynn, is the birth-place of that great luminary in the legal hemisphere, SIR EDWARD COKE. He was son of Robert Coke, Esq. lord of this manor, and born in the old hall which is now dilapidated. Having been bred to the law, as his father had previously been, he so distinguished himself as to rise to its highest honours and emoluments. In the early part of his career he was first made recorder of Norwich and then of London; he then was appointed solicitor-general to Queen Elizabeth, and Speaker of the House of Commons. He was afterwards chosen attorney-general, in which office he continued under King James, who

successively appointed him chief justice of both benches. He died *Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench*, September 3, A. D. 1634, in the eighty-third year of his age. A sumptuous altar monument, bearing a Latin inscription, in the chancel of the church at *Tittleshall*, in this hundred, records his acquirements, honours, and virtues.

## EYNSFORD HUNDRED,

Situated to the north-east of Launditch, is about twelve miles in length, and seven in breadth; the lower part of which is watered by the river Wensum.

The amount of money raised for the use of the poor, in the year 1803, for this district, was 7,699l. 5s. 5d. making an average of five shillings and four-pence farthing in the pound rate.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Alderford, Bawdeswell, Billingford, Bintree, Brandiston, Bylaugh, Elsing, Foulsham, Foxley, Guestwick, Guiest, Hackford* and Whitwell, *Haveringland, Hindolveston, Lyng, Morton, Reepham* (with Kerdiston), *Ringland, Sall, Sparkham, Swannington, Themelthorpe, Thurning, Twyford, Weston, Witchingham* Great, *Witchingham* Little, *Wood Dalling*, and *Wood Norton.*

## FOULSHAM,

A small town, having a weekly market on Fridays, was, in the year 1770, almost entirely destroyed by fire, since which catastrophe it has been rebuilt in a more convenient and respectable style. In the church-yard is an ancient altar *tomb* bearing an inscription, which has been much noticed for the singular disposition of the Saxon

Saxon letters, each of which is surmounted by a coronet, "ROB ART COL LES CECI LY HIS VIF*." The words thus divided into compartments, record the memory of *Robert Colles* and *Cecely* his wife, of whom nothing further is known, than that the former was witness to a deed of Ralph Bateman, &c. who lived in the twentieth year o King Henry the Seventh's reign†.

## REEPHAM, OR REPHAM,

Is a very small town, having a weekly market on Saturdays, a charter for which was obtained by Sir John de Vaux, in the fifth year of King Edward the First. At one time the parish had three churches standing within one sepulchral enclosure. In the chancel of one of these are monuments, with effigies, &c. to the memory of the ancient family of *Kerdeston*. In the church was formerly a "famous image of the Virgin Mary," which, like the shrines of Diana, at Ephesus, brought no small gains to those who managed the concern; numerous pilgrimages being made to it.

SALL.—The church of this village is a large stone structure, and consists of a chancel, nave, two ailes, a transept, and a square tower at the west end. It was erected at the expence of some lord of the manor, in the reign of King Henry the Sixth, probably by ——— Delapole, Duke of Suffolk, whose arms, quartered with those of Wingfield, are in the east window of the chancel. In the pavement, on a flat stone, is this inscription, "*Orate p. a' i' a.* SIMONIS BOLEYN *capellani, qui obt.* 3 *die mensis, Augi.* 1482.—

X 4 *Hic*

* This is engraved and published in the Philosophical Transactions, No. 189, and is copied, but not deciphered, in the Magna Britannia, Vol. III. p. 282. A more accurate engraving was published by the Society of Antiquaries, and is again given in the second volume of Gough's Edition of Camden, plate II. figure 5.

† Blomefield's Essay &c. Vol. VIII. p. 203.

*Hic jacet* GALFRID. BOLEYN, *qui obt. 25 die mensis Martii 1440, et Alicie uxor ejus, et pueror, suorum, quorum a'i'ab. &c.*"*

## HOLT HUNDRED

Lies directly north of Eynsford, and extends about eight miles in length, by seven in breadth. The features of this district are comparatively bold, and greatly diversified by hill and dale. Being also generally well wooded, it affords many pleasing prospects, and may be justly styled the garden of Norfolk.

The amount of money raised for the use of the poor, in the year 1803, amounted to the sum of 7,792l. 12s. 6d.; constituting an average of five shillings and nine-pence farthing in the pound rate.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Bale*, or Baithley, *Blakeney*, *Bodham*, *Brinningham*, *Brinton*, *Briston*, *Cley* (next the Sea), *Edgefield*, *Glanford* (with Bayfield), *Gunthorpe*, *Hempstead*, *Holt*, *Hunworth*, *Kelling*, *Langham*, *Letheringsett*, *Melton Constable* and Burgh Parva, *Morston*, *Salthouse*, *Saxlingham*, *Sharrington*, *Stody*, *Swanton-Novers*, *Thornage*, *Weybourn*, and *Wiveton*.

## HOLT,

Which gives name to the hundred, is a neat market town, pleasantly situated on a rising ground, and contains two hundred and fifteen houses, and one thousand and four inhabitants. It formerly

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. VIII. p. 275. This Geffrey was father of Sir Geffrey Boleyn, lord mayor of London, in the year 1457, and great-grandfather to Queen Elizabeth.

merly suffered great inconvenience for want of water, which was necessarily fetched from a considerable distance. Great part of the town was destroyed by fire in the year 1708; since which time many good houses have been erected, and the Sessions-house is occasionally used for holding subscription assemblies. Here is a considerable free-school, which was founded in the year 1556, by *Sir Thomas Gresham*, who placed it under the perpetual direction of the Fishmonger's company in London.

SIR THOMAS was born in this town in the year 1507; and entering into partnership with his brother Sir Richard Gresham, an eminent merchant in London, he became a distinguished character. He served the office of sheriff for that city during the year that his brother filled the mayoralty. He was in the confidence of Queen Elizabeth, and was distinguished by the appellation of "*merchant royal.*" He materially assisted the great Lord Burleigh, by advising him respecting commercial relations, and by borrowing money for the service of the state. In conjunction with his brother, he projected the building of the Royal Exchange, in London, which was afterwards completed by his nephew, *Sir John Gresham.*

## BLAKENEY

Is a small sea-port town, which was formerly much frequented by German merchants; but has now little trade, except fishing. This place is celebrated in ancient history for its monastery of *Friars Carmelites,* in which was educated the learned and eccentric character, JOHN DE BACONTHORPE; a man possessed of so much abstruse metaphysical learning, as to be the wonder of the age in which he lived. He was called the resolute and subtle Doctor, was a strong advocate for the philosophy of Averroes; and so blinded by the superstition of the age, as to assert, in a controversy respecting the celibacy of the clergy, that the *Pope possessed an inherent right to dispense with the divine laws.* He died at London in the year 1346.

CLEY,

CLEY, another small sea-port, never appears to have been of much consequence; but is memorable in history for the following incident, which occurred here:—In the year 1406, James, son of Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, and heir apparent to the crown, being on a voyage to France, was driven by stress of weather on this coast, and detained by the mariners of Cley. When taken to court, King Henry learning from the prince's protector, the Earl of Orkney, that he was going for education into France, said, "My brother of Scotland might as well have sent him to me, for I can speak French." The prince and earl were confined in the Tower of London, where they continued seventeen years, till the third year of King Henry the Sixth's reign, when they were released, and the prince immediately succeeded to the throne of Scotland.

The place is said "to have a good haven*; but at what period this could be is not evident. The channel to the sea is very narrow, and could never have been navigable but for small vessels.

MELTON CONSTABLE is the seat of *Sir Jacob Henry Astley, Bart.* The house, which is a noble square mansion, with four fronts, was erected by Sir Jacob Astley about the year 1680; but has since undergone several alterations, and received some ornamental additions. The chapel, grand staircase, many of the rooms, cielings, &c. are highly finished; but the house, as a whole, is rather convenient than elegant.

The park, four miles in circumference, has been lately much improved by plantations and other artificial embellishments. A temple, aviary, in which is a fine collection of birds, church, porter's lodges, and the tower, called Belle-Vue, are seen to advantage in various directions. From the latter, which contains several apartments, elegantly fitted up, is an immense prospect over the adjacent country and the sea.

NORTH

* Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. IX. p. 390.

## NORTH ERPINGHAM HUNDRED

Lies to the east of Holt, and extends in length about eleven miles, and five in breath. The soil is fertile, the lands principally arable, and, being inclosed with much timber in the fences, gives the whole a pleasing sylvan appearance.

The money raised for the maintenance of the poor of this district, in the year 1803, was 8,555l. 3s. 7½d.; constituting an average of ten shillings and five-pence in the pound.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, under the apprehension of invasion, a depot of military stores was placed in every hundred; and this had in store, at that period, 400lb. of powder, 600 of match, 270 of lead, 30 pick-axes, 30 shod shovels, 30 bare shovels, 9 axes, 300 baskets, and 5 beetles.

The parishes of this hundred are, *Aldborough*, *Antingham*, *Aylmerton*, *Barningham* Northwood, *Barningham* Town, *Beckham* East, *Beeston* Regis, *Bessingham*, *Cromer*, *Felbrigg*, *Gimingham*, *Gresham*, *Gunton*, *Hanworth*, *Knapton*, *Matlask*, *Metton*, *Mundesley*, *Northreps*, *Overstrand*, *Plumstead*, *Roughton*, *Runcton*, *Sherringham*, *Sidestrand*, *Southreps*, *Suffield*, *Sustead*, *Thorp-Market*, *Thurgarton*, *Trimingham*, and *Trunch*.

## CROMER

Is a small town, situated upon a cliff of considerable height, and inhabited principally by fishermen. It has a weekly market on Saturdays. This place has no harbour*, yet, at times, considerable

* The harbour formerly was at the village of *Shipden*, which appears to have been swallowed up by the sea about the time of Henry the Fourth; for a patent, to collect certain duties for the erection of a *pier*, was granted in

able trade is carried on, and much coal is imported in vessels, carrying from sixty to one hundred tons burthen. The barges lie upon the beach, and at ebb-tide carts are drawn along side to unship their cargoes: when empty, the vessels anchor a little distance from the shore, and re-load by means of boats. But this landing of goods is attended with much inconvenience and expence; for the carts, though drawn by four horses, owing to the steepness of the road up the cliffs, can only carry small loads; and the shipping, having no road-stead, are, during stormy weather, in great danger. Cromer Bay has the appellation of the *Devil's Throat*. This place is famous for the number of excellent crabs and lobsters caught upon the coast. As a watering-place, Cromer has attained some celebrity. It is not destitute of comforts; the adjacent country is picturesque; and few sea-views can exceed this, which is almost daily crowded with shipping. The tower of Cromer Church, one hundred and fifty-nine feet high, is richly ornamented with sculpture, and the nave and ailes are handsome. About a mile east of the town, on a part of the cliff, stands a light-house *.

FELBRIGG, the seat of the Right Honourable *William Windham*, stands at the eastern extremity of a high tract of land, called Felbrigg and Sherringham Heaths; and is ranked amongst the first situations in Norfolk. It is three miles from Cromer. The house, which is partially of the time of Henry the Eighth, has been

in the fourteenth year of Richard the Second. Blomefield's Essay, &c. Vol. VIII. p. 106.—At very low tides, are still to be seen, large masses of wall, which sailors denominate Shipden steeple. The sea makes rapid encroachments on the cliffs at Cromer, as it does on those near Brighthelmstone, in Sussex.

* For many particulars respecting the scenery, views, seats, &c. in this part of the county, see an interesting little topographical volume, entitled "Cromer considered as a Watering-place, with Observations on the Picturesque Scenery in its Neighbourhood. By Edmund Bartell, jun." Second edition, 8vo. 1806.

been considerably enlarged by the Windham family at different periods; and from the improvements of the present possessor, is rendered a convenient, and, in some respects, an elegant mansion. Many of the alterations and additions, particularly the fitting up of the hall and library, in a style corresponding with the ancient south front, do credit to the taste of the present proprietor. The library contains a selection of valuable books, with a fine collection of prints, &c.; and among the paintings, are some by Rembrant, Bergham, Vandervelt, and other eminent masters. The *Park* possesses the advantage of having several old standing woods; and the present proprietor has progressively added many plantations. Mr. Windham's improvements have not been merely confined to his own demesne. They have extended much further; Felbrigg has particularly experienced the beneficial effects. The common-field-land has been recently inclosed, and converted into arable or wood-lands; by which means the property and the population of the district have been very considerably increased.

"The parish church of Felbrigg," says Mr. Bartell, "situated in the park, is a pleasing object, particularly when stationed near the house, where the trees of a fine avenue of oaks and beeches grace the fore-ground. The interior of the church will repay the curiosity of the traveller and the antiquarian." Here is a large marble stone, with a fine brass, representing the figure, in complete armour, of *Sir Simon de Felbrigg*, knight of the garter, who lived in the time of Henry the Sixth. Mr. Bartell has given a particular description of this brass, the arms, &c. and an account of the principal pictures in the house.

Two miles from Felbrigg, in a sequestered spot, stand the dilapidated remains of *Beckam old Church;* which, for size and other circumstances, are peculiarly interesting and picturesque.

GUNTON HALL is more remarkable for the extensive plantations of the park in which it stands, than for the size or architecture of the mansion. New offices were erected, under the direction

tion of *Mr. Wyatt*, in the year 1785. Gunton is the seat of the *Right Honourable Harbord Harbord*, who was created *Lord Suffield*, in the year 1786.

The *Church* of *Gunton*, rebuilt by the late Sir William Harbord, Bart., is a handsome modern structure, having a beautiful portico of the Doric order.

"Two miles from Gunton is HANWORTH, the seat of Robert Lee Doughty, Esq.; an excellent modern house, situated in a small, but very pleasant park, well wooded, and laid out with taste. A farm-house, and the parish church, which stands on an eminence, both in the park, are very good objects, as seen from the road*."

THORPE MARKET church, recently rebuilt at the expence of Lord Suffield, attracts notice from the simplicity and elegance which the architect, *Mr. Wood*, has contrived to combine in this singular edifice. It consists of only a single aile, and is constructed with flint and freestone. At each of the four angles is a turret, and each side is terminated by a gable, surmounted by a stone cross. The inside has a corresponding neatness, and the windows are ornamented with *modern stained glass*. Here are three family monuments, taken from the old church, and a small one has recently been raised to the memories of Robert and William *Morden*, who were brothers of the present Lord Suffield.

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## SOUTH ERPINGHAM HUNDRED,

So denominated from its situation to the south of the hundred just described, extends about thirteen miles in length, and is of various

* Bartell's Cromer, &c. page 74.

various breadths from two to nine miles. It comprehends a tract of rich country, highly cultivated, well inhabited, and the face of it finely interspersed with woods, streams, villages, churches, and many respectable seats. This hundred constitutes the deanery of Ingworth, in the archdeaconry of Norwich. The sum raised for the use of the poor, in the year 1803, amounted to 15,111l. 13s. 2½d.; making an average of eight shillings and three-pence in the pound rate.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Alby*, *Armingland*, *Aylsham*, *Beaconsthorpe*, *Banningham*, *Barningham* Little, *Beckham* West, *Belaugh*, *Blickling*, *Booton*, *Brampton*, *Burrough*, *Buxton*, *Calthorpe*, *Cawston*, *Colby*, *Coltishall*, *Corpusty*, *Erpingham*, *Hautboys* Great, *Hautboys* Little, *Hevingham*, *Heydon*, *Ingworth*, *Itteringham*, *Lammas* (with Little Hautboys) *Mannington*, *Marsham*, *Oulton*, *Oxnead*, *Saxthorpe*, *Scottow*, *Skeyton*, *Stratton*, *Strawless* *Swanton-Abbot*, *Thwaite*, *Tattington*, *Wickmere*, and *Wolterton*.

## AYLSHAM

Is a respectable town, seated on the southern side of the river Bure, which is navigable hence to Yarmouth, for barges of thirteen tons burthen. During the reigns of Edward the Second and Edward the Third, Aylsham was the chief town in this part of the kingdom for the *linen-manufacture*, whence it was denominated, in records, "*Aylsham webs*," "*cloth of Aylsham*," &c. but in succeeding reigns this branch of business was superceded by the woollen manufacture, and in the time of King James the First the inhabitants were principally employed in knitting worsted stockings, breeches, and waistcoat pieces.

Since the introduction of frame-knitting that trade has also been lost. The town was formerly governed by a bailiff, had a weekly market on Saturdays, but this has been changed to Tuesday, and the times of holding the two annual fairs have also been

been altered. The town contains three hundred and thirty-two houses, and one thousand six hundred and sixty-seven inhabitants.

The *Church* consists of a nave, with two ailes, a chancel, a transept, and square tower, surmounted by a small spire. This structure is said to have been erected by *John of Gaunt*, Duke of Lancaster, the court of which duchy was at one period held at Aylsham. In a south window of the church is a painting on glass, of the Salutation, finished in the year 1516. The *font* has basso relievos of the four emblems of the evangelists, the instruments of the passion, and the arms of *Gaunt*, with other armorial insignia. In the church and chancel are numerous old brasses with inscriptions.

The *Free-school*, near the church, was first founded by *Robert Jonnys*, who was mayor of Norwich in the year 1517; and further endowed by Archbishop Parker.

On the front of the county *bridewell*, the following inscription was cut in wood, and lately remained.

GOD SAVE OURE SUPPREME KYNG HENRY THE HYGHT.

PRAY *for the good prosperyte and asstate of Roberd Marsham and Jone his wyfe the wiche this howse they cawsid to be made to the honor of the towne be thir qwyck lyves fines* 1543."

BLICKLING HALL, the seat of the Honourable William Asheton Harbord, about two miles to the N.W. of Aylsham, is an interesting ancient mansion, and still preserves, in the general appearance, arrangement, &c. its original characteristics. The manor was owned by Harold, afterwards King of England, in Edward the Confessor's time. When the domesday survey was made, one part of it belonged to *Beausoc*, Bishop of Thetford, and the other moiety was possessed by the crown. Both were invested with the privileges of ancient *demesne*, were exempt from the

the hundred, and had the *Lete* with all royalties. The Conqueror settled the whole town and advowson on the See; and after this was fixed at Norwich the bishops had a *palace*, or country seat, with a park, &c. here. It also appears, from the institution books of the king's itinerant justices, that this manor was allowed the liberties of *lete*, or view of *frankpledge*, assize of bread and ale, a gallows, tumbrell, or cucking-stool, and free warren. The manor and advowson continued appendant to the see till the year 1535, when, by exchange, both were invested in the crown, and King Henry granted the advowson to Sir *John Clere*, Knt. who, in 1546, held it in *capite* of the crown. The families of Dagworth, Erpingham, Fastolf, Boleyne, and Hobart, have successively possessed this manor, and several monuments have been erected in the parish church to some distinguished characters in each family. The present noble mansion was built by Sir John Hobart, Knt. and completed in 1628, when the domestic chapel was consecrated. In Blomefield's History, Vol. VI. p. 399, it is described as "a curious brick fabric, four square, with a turret at each corner; there are two courts, and with the fine library, elegant wilderness, good lake, gardens, and park, is a pleasant beautiful seat, worthy the observation of such as make the Norfolk tour." On a progress of King Charles the Second into this county, in the year 1671, Stephenson, in his poems, has these complimentary and quaint lines:

> "Paston and Hobart did bring up the meat,
> Who the next day, at their own houses treat,
> Paston to *Oxnead*, did his Sovereing bring,
> And like Araunah, offered as a king.
> *Blickling* 2 monarchs and 2 queens has seen,
> One king fetch'd thence*, another brought a queen†,
> Great Townshend of the treats brought up the rear,
> And doubly was my Lord Lieutenant there."



* Henry the Eighth married Anne Boleyne from this house, and is said to have come here personally for that purpose.

† Charles the Second, with his queen, visited Blickling.

The house is seated in a bottom, and nearly environed with large old trees. According to Mr. Gilpin " the moat, the bridges, the turrets, the battlements, are all impressed with the ideas of antiquity. A tale of woe also contributes to dignify this mansion. It was the birth-place of the unfortunate Ann Bolen. Blickling is now very expensively fitted up, and contains many grand rooms, in which the chimnies, ceilings, wainscot, and other ornaments are in general suitable to the antiquity of the whole." The entrance from the court-yard, on each side of which are ranged the offices, in the same style of building with the house, is over a bridge of two arches, which crosses a moat. After passing through a small inner court, the visitor enters the *Hall*, which measures forty-two feet by thirty-three, and thirty-three in height. This opens to the *Staircase*, which is ornamented with various small figures, carved in wood; and has a gallery at the top. The latter contains statues of Anne Boleyne and Queen Elizabeth. In the different apartments are various portraits of eminent characters: among which are the following:—Full lengths of the present King and Queen, by *Sir Joshua Reynolds*:—King George the Second on horseback:—Judge Hobart, in his robes. The library room measures one hundred and twenty-five feet in length, by twenty-two in breadth. The park and gardens comprehend about one thousand acres of land, and are abundantly decorated with old forest trees, and a fine piece of water. The latter extends in a crescent shape, for about one mile in its greatest length, by nearly four hundred yards in extreme breadth. About one mile from the house is a stone *mausoleum*, built in the form of a pyramid; in which are the remains of the late Lord Buckinghamshire and his first lady.

WOLTERTON HALL, a seat of the Walpole family, is an elegant modern mansion, and was built, under the direction of Ripley, the architect, by Horatio, Lord Walpole, about the year 1730. It is seated in a large park, which is well ornamented with wood and water; and near the house is the tower of a church, embosomed

bosomed in trees. The tower of the parish church is circular at bottom, and octangular at top.

In the parish of BUXTON, near Aylsham, many Roman urns, and other ancient relics, have been found.

SOUTH ERPINGHAM is a village of much local notoriety, from having given name to, and been the residence of the Erpingham family, one of whom was that celebrated chivalrous Knight, Sir *Thomas Erpingham*. He lived in the reigns of Richard the Second, and Henrys' the Fourth and Fifth. Though scarcely alluded to by our political historians, he was constantly engaged in most of the wars during the reigns of the monarchs just named; and particularly distinguished himself at the memorable battle of *Agincourt*. Froissart describes a duel which was fought before the king, at Montereau, between an English knight, attached to the Duke of Ireland, called *Sir Thomas Hapurgan (Erpingham)*, and *Sir John de Barres*. "This duel had made a great noise throughout France and other countries; and it was to be fought with five courses of the lance, on horseback, five thrusts with swords, the same number of strokes with daggers and battle axes; and should their armour fail, they were to be supplied anew until it were perfect*."

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## TAVERHAM HUNDRED,

Which is bounded by the city and liberty of Norwich on its southern side, comprehends an area of nearly twelve miles in its longest extent, by seven in a transverse direction. It contains some heath land, but, from its vicinity to the city, has been much cultivated



* Translation of the Chronicles of Froissart, by Thomas Johnes, Esq. M. P. Vol. IX. p. 191.

tivated and improved within the last twenty years. Many plantations and seats adorn this part of the county. It gives name to a deanery, and is within the archdeaconry of Norwich. The money raised for the service of the poor, in the year 1803, was 5,350l. 0s. 5¾d.; being seven shillings and six-pence in the annual pound rate.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Attlebridge*, *Beeston* St. Andrew, *Catton*, *Crostwick*, *Drayton*, *Felthorpe*, *Frettenham*, *Haynford*, *Hellesdon*, *Horsford*, *Horstead* (with Staninghall), *Horsham* St. Faith, and *Norton* St. Faith, *Rackheath*, *Salhouse*, *Spixworth*, *Sprowston*, *Taverham*, and *Wroxham*.

In the parish of HORSFORD are the site, moat, &c. of an ancient *Castle*, which belonged to the lords of the manor, who obtained their name from the place. In the year 1493, the bishop of the diocese granted the inhabitants of this village the liberty of asking alms, for the purpose of repairing or building their church and tower. It is a small plain building of one aile, a chancel, a chapel, and a square tower.

At HORSHAM, now called HORSHAM ST. FAITH'S, was a *priory* of Benedictine monks, founded by Robert de Cadomo lord of Horsford, and Sibilla his wife, in the year 1105. The foundation deed was confirmed by Pope Alexander the Third, A. D. 1163, and various bequests were made to the monastery by different persons who possessed this, and the adjoining manor of Horsford. In the time of King Richard the Second, this priory was discharged from its subjection to the abbey of Couches in France, and constituted indigeni. At the Dissolution, its annual revenues were valued, according to Speed, at 193l. 2s. 3½d. which were granted, with the rectory and advowson of Horsford, to Sir Richard Southwell, and Edward Ellington, Esq. Hugh de Cressi possessed the privileges of a fair, a market, and a prison here, in the forty-first year of King Henry the Third. A very considerable fair is still held here on October 17, for cattle, &c.

A *Hospital*

A *Hospital* of the Knights Templars was established in this parish; and in the church-yard was a CROSS, which Helen Carter, in the year 1521, gave an acre of land for the repair of.

RACKHEATH was formerly divided into two parishes, with a church to each; but they are now incorporated. Here was a *priory*, the temporalities of which were valued, in 1428, at forty-one shillings and three-pence. In the parish is a handsome seat belonging to Edward Stracey, Esq.

In the church of SPROWSTON is a mural marble monument, with figures of *Miles Corbet, Esq.*, his two wives, &c. He died June the 19th, 1607; and had been one of the registrars in Chancery, a place worth 700l. per annum. He was also chairman of the committee for scandalous ministers, for which he received 1000l. a year; and was one of the judges who signed the warrant for the execution of King Charles. At the Restoration he fled to Holland, where he was pursued and taken, and in 1661 was executed as a traitor. Within this parish is SPROWSTON HALL, which lately belonged to the Blackwell family.

## TUNSTEAD HUNDRED,

To the north-east of Taverham, extends nearly thirteen miles in length, by about five in breadth, and comprises a tract of rich and well cultivated country, which is pleasingly variegated in its features. This, with the hundred of Happing, constitutes the deanery of Waxton.

The sum raised by a parochial rate, in the year 1803, was 4,906l. 19s. 11¾d.; forming an average of ten shillings and seven-pence three farthings in the pound rent.

Tunstead contains the parishes of *Ashmanhaugh, Bacton, Barton Turf, Beeston* St. Lawrence, *Bradfield, Crostwight, Dilham, Edingthorpe, Felmingham, Honing, Horning, Hoveton* St. John, *Hoveton* St. Peter, *Irstead, Neatishead, Paston, Ridlington, Sco-Ruston, Sloley, Smallburgh, Swafield, Tunstead, Walsham* North, *Westwick, Witton,* and *Worstead.*

## NORTH WALSHAM

Is a market town, consisting of three streets, which form an irregular triangle. At the junction of these is the parish *church,* the tower of which fell down in the year 1724. In the chancel is a fine monument, with an effigy, &c. to the memory of *Sir William Paston, Knt.* who died in 1608, aged eighty years. The knight agreed, in 1607, with John Key, a freemason of London, to erect and fit up this tomb, with his effigy in armour, five feet and a half long, for which he was to be paid 200l. Sir William settled 40l. per annum on the free-school, and 10l. a year on a weekly lecturer.

A very destructive fire occurred here in 1600, when 118 houses, besides many barns, stables, malthouses, &c. were consumed, the value of which was estimated at 20,000l. In the reign of King Edward the Third, Bishop Thirlby built a *market cross* here, which was repaired, after the above fire, by Bishop Redman. In this parish are meeting-houses for the quakers, methodists, presbyterians, and anabaptists.

Broomholme Priory, in the parish of Bacton, was founded by *William de Glanville,* A. D. 1113, for monks of the *Cluniac* order*, and made a cell to the monastery of Castle-acre. The revenues, at the dissolution, were valued at the annual sum of 100l.

* Speed and Weever mention another monastery at this place, for Benedictines; but they appear to have confounded this priory with that of *Broomhill,* in the parish of Weeting.

100l. The remains of this building, near the sea-side, some years since formed an interesting ruin; but most of the walls are now incorporated with a farm-house, and the rooms converted into domestic offices.

St. Bennet's Abbey, at Holme, in the parish of *Horning*, was founded in a fenny place, called *Cowholme*, where formerly was an hermitage, which King Canute, in the year 1020, established for black monks of the Benedictine order. The ample endowments and privileges first granted, were further extended by Edward the Confessor, Maud the Empress, and other royal personages. It was one of the *mitred* abbies, and its abbots had a seat in the house of lords. The annual revenues, according to Speed, were valued, in the twenty-sixth of Henry the Eighth's reign, at 677l. 9s. 8d. In the following year these revenues were exchanged, by Bishop *Rugge*, or Reppes, for those of the diocese of Norwich*. But the bishop being bound to provide for the prior and twelve monks, he was unable to maintain his state and dignity, and obtained leave to resign, with a pension of 200 marks per annum†. The abbey was originally built so strong, that it appeared more like a castle than a cloister; and was so well fortified, that William the Conqueror in vain besieged it, till a monk, upon condition of being made abbot,

 betrayed

* Willis's Mitred Abbies, Vol. I. p. 118.

† The following ludicrous verses were published on the bishop's folly in making the exchange, and his resignation:—

"Poor Will, thou *rugged* art, and ragged all,
Thy *abbey* cannot bless thee in such fame;
To keep a pallace fair, and stately hall,
When gone is thence, what should maintaine the same.
First pay thy debts, and hence return to *cell*,
And pray the blessed saint, whom thou dost serve,
That others may maintaine the *pallace* well,
For if *thou* stay'st, *we* all are like to starve."

betrayed the place. The king performed the condition, but hanged the new *abbot* as a *traitor*.

Some foundations of the walls, which inclosed an area of thirty-five acres, are yet traceable; but the remains of the once stately building are now no more, except part of the magnificent *gate-way*, and this is partially obscured by a *draining mill* erected over it.

WORSTEAD, though formerly a town of considerable trade, and much celebrity, is now reduced to a village; and the manufactures, which obtained a name from the place, are removed to Norwich and its vicinity.

WORSTEAD HALL, the seat of Sir George Brograve, Bart. is contiguous to the village, and is a commodious mansion, seated in a pleasant park.

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## HAPPING HUNDRED

Is situated to the west of that of Tunstead, and is bounded on the eastern side by the ocean. Its greatest extent, from north to south, is eleven miles, and the breadth about eight. The chief part of this district consists of warrens, commons, and those small lakes called broads. The villages are mostly surrounded by marshes, which render the air damp and unhealthy. This hundred forms part of the deanery of Waxton, in the archdeaconry of Norwich.

The sum raised for the maintenance of the poor, in the year 1803, amounted to 2,856l. 5s. 8d.; forming, in the pound rate, an average of six shillings and eleven-pence. By an act passed in

in the twenty fifth year of the present reign, this hundred was incorporated with that of Tunstead, excepting the parish of North Walsham in the latter, for parochial purposes; and a house of industry was erected for both, at the village of Smallburgh.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Brumstead, Catfield, Happisburgh, Hempstead* (with Eccles), *Hickling, Horsey, Ingham, Lessingham, Ludham, Palling, Potter Heigham, Ruston* East, *Stalham, Sutton, Walcot,* and *Waxham.*

INGHAM, a village, was formerly the property and seat of a distinguished family, which derived its name from the place. In the church is an effigy, lying on a mattrass, of *Sir Oliver Ingham,* in complete armour, his sword by his side, and a lion couchant at his feet. Weever describes the canopy as ornamented with the sun, moon, and stars, "*lively set forth in metal.*" The back part appears to have been adorned with various emblematic statues and devices, and the helmet was supported by two angelic figures. Round the tomb are twenty-four niches, twelve on a side. These contain an equal number of figures, habited in various dresses, representative of the chief mourners. The inscription is,—"*Mounsier* OLVIER DE INGHAM *gist icy, et Dame Elizabeth, sa compagne, qui luy Dieux de les almes oit mercy.*" He was a valiant knight, and great favourite of King Edward the Second, who made him governor of several of his castles, seneschal of Gascoigne, and lord warden of the marshes of Guinne, at which time he raised a large army, and recovered the country of Agnois. King Edward the Third conferred on him the government of Aquitaine, and a grant of 500 marks sterling, and 77½ sacks of wool out of the *king's wool-loft,* in Hampshire.

On a raised altar-tomb, ornamented by alternate niches with figures, and quatre-foils, including shields, lie the effigies of a knight in armour, with his lady, inscribed,—"*Monsieur Roger de Boys gist icy, et Dame Margareta sa femme auxi vous, qui passer*

*passer icy priere Dieu de leur almes eit mercy. Elle moraut l'an notre Seigneur mill. trecent et quintsieme, & et il moraut l'an de dit nostre Seigneur,* 1300."

A small College was annexed to this church by Sir Miles Stapleton, for a prior, sacrist, and six canons; their duty was the *redemption of captives.* The revenues were valued, at the dissolution, according to Speed, at 74l. 2s. 7d. per annum.

RUSTON, or *East Riston,* will be ever memorable in the annals of literature, from being the birth-place of RICHARD PORSON, who was the son of Huggin Porson, the parish clerk of this village, and was born on Christmas-day, 1759. Those scintillations of his genius, which afterwards broke out into a blaze of splendor, and marked his early dawn, having attracted the attention of the neighbourhood, a Mr. Norris took him under his patronage, sent him to Eton school in the year 1774, and three years afterwards had him entered of Trinity College, Cambridge. At the university he devoted his time chiefly to classical learning, and in this pursuit soon obtained indisputable pre-eminence. He was elected fellow in 1781, and proceeded to a master's degree in 1785. His acquisitions in Grecian literature were uncommonly extensive, as his criticisms and emendations of authors in that language will evidently evince. Such was the superiority of his talents, and the impression they had made, in spite of the religious prejudices excited by his controversy with Archdeacon Travis, that he was unanimously called to the Greek professor's chair in the university. Having been disappointed in delivering lectures upon a language and species of learning he adored, he then turned his attention to literary composition, and several publications afford demonstrative proofs of his profound ability and elaborate accuracy. A short time prior to his death, which happened the 19th of September, 1808, he was appointed, by the *London Institution,* to fill the situation of *librarian* to that laudable literary establishment.

The talents of Mr. Porson procured him some warm and zealous friends;

friends; and it is barely justice to say, that the Rev. Dr. Raine, of the Charter-House, was perseveringly kind, and laudably generous, towards him. Mr. Savage, Clerk of the London Institution, has published an account of the last illness and death of this eminent Grecian scholar *.

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## WEST-FLEGG HUNDRED

Lies to the south of Happing, and extends about seven miles in length by three in breath. The centre of the hundred rises boldly above the marshes; and its agricultural improvements have been noticed by Mr. Arthur Young †. This, with the hundred of East Flegg, constitutes the deanery of Flegg, in the archdeaconry of Norwich. The money collected for the use of the poor, in the year 1803, amounted to the sum of 1,042l. 10s. 8d.; making an average of four shillings and eleven-pence farthing in the annual pound rate.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Ashby* (with Oby), *Billockby, Burgh, Clippesby, Hemesby, Martham, Repps* (cum Bastwick), *Rollesby, Somerton* East, *Somerton* West, *Thurne,* and *Winterton.*

WINTERTON formerly had a market and fair, both of which are now discontinued. This place gives the title of *Earl* to the family of *Turnour,* who possess considerable property in the vicinity. The village is chiefly inhabited by fishermen, who are as uncouth in their manners, as the element is rough and boisterous from which they procure a precarious subsistence. Eastward of the village projects a promontory, well known to mariners,

* In a periodical work, called "*The Librarian,*" a very useful publication.

† Farmer's Tour in the North of England.

mariners, called the *Ness;* which, surmounted by the steeple of the church, forms a good land-mark. On this point a light-house was erected in the sixteenth century, by Sir William Erskine, Knt. and John Meldrum, Esq. At present there are two lights, one produced by burning of coals, and the other by oil. In the year 1665, by the sea encroaching on the cliffs, several large bones were discovered, supposed to be human. One of these, weighing fifty-seven pounds, was three feet two inches in length; and on examination, the faculty pronounced it to be the leg-bone of a man.

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## EAST-FLEGG HUNDRED

Lies at the eastern extremity of the county, and is separated on the south, by the river Yare, from the county of Suffolk. The higher lands are in a good state of cultivation, and the marshes well drained. The money for the use of the poor, raised in the year 1803, was 1,018l. 13s. 11½d.; making an average of three shillings and six-pence in the pound rate. The two hundreds of Flegg were incorporated for parochial purposes, by an act passed in the twenty-fifth year of his present majesty's reign; and a house of industry for the poor of both, was erected at Rollesby in the year 1777.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Caister* (next Yarmouth), *Filby, Mautby, Ormsby* St. Margeret (with Scratby), *Ormsby* St. Michael, *Runham, Stokesby* (cum Herringby), *Thrigby,* and the town of *Great Yarmouth.*

CAISTER, in Domesday-book written *Castre,* derives its name from an ancient *encampment,* which was formerly here, but which has been nearly obliterated by ploughing, and by other improvements. Spelman and Parkin place the *Gariononum* of the Romans at Caister; but Camden, Ives, and other later antiquaries, describe it at Burgh: the existing remains at which place,

place, and the arguments advanced, seem demonstratively to prove that the latter was the site of the station. A tradition, however, corroborated by an ancient chart of the mouth of the Yare, supposed to be drawn about A. D. 1000, shews that the river had formerly two channels; one to the north by Caister, and the other to the south, by Garleston. The site of the present Yarmouth, was, at that period, a large sand bank, and called *Cerdic shore;* from a Saxon prince of that name having first landed there, A. D. 495. That this was the case, appears probable from the notice, in records, of the sea having overspread all the marshes on the banks of the Yare, and flowed, as delineated in the chart, up to Norwich. Two fortresses, therefore, erected, one at the entrance of each channel, for the defence of a particular port, might be designated as one station. The river Yare is called *Gariensis,* by Ptolomy, and the two stations on it, might receive the appellation of *Gariononum.* In a similar manner, two fortresses, one on each side of the river Avon, near Bristol, are included in the station, *Abone.*

About two miles west of the ancient fortifications are the remains of *Caister castle,* which is supposed to be one of the *oldest brick* mansions in the kingdom. Mr. Grose, however, thinks it is not of earlier date than the year 1449, when it is said to have been erected by Sir John Fastolff. Though no reference to this place is made in our general histories; yet, after it came into the possession of *Sir John Paston, Knight,* in the reign of Edward the Fourth, it was twice besieged; once by the Duke of Norfolk, and, again, by the Lord Scales *.

It appears, from the description of William of Worcester, to have

* Itineraria de Willelmi de Worcestre. Alluding to the first, John Paston, Esq. writes, in the year 1469, to Sir John Paston thus:—"We were sore lack of victuals and gunpowder: men's hearts lack of surety of rescue (were) driven thereto to take appointment." Collection of Letters, published by Sir John Fenn, respecting the transactions, during the contentions of the *two roses:* the darkest period of English history.

have been a noble castellated mansion, forming a rectangular parallelogram, and was entered by a drawbridge over a moat, which, through a creek, at that time, communicated with the sea. An embattled brick tower, one hundred feet high, is still standing at the north-west corner, and the west and north walls also remain; but the south and east sides are levelled to the ground. Eastward of the castle stood a *college*, the buildings of which formed three sides of a spacious square.

Sir John Fastolff was born at this place, which belonged to his father, in the year 1377. He soon entered upon a military career, and having received an appointment under the English regency in France, he signalized himself by many acts of bravery, during a forty years campaign. In the course of this period, he was made, in the field of battle, knight banneret, a baron of France, knight of the garter, marshal of the regent's household, the king's lieutenant in Normandy, and progressively appointed to various other public offices. After his return to Caister, he was constantly exercised in acts of hospitality, munificence, and charity; became a founder of religious and other edifices, a generous patron of learning, an encourager of piety, and a benefactor to the poor. Yet this truly great and eminent character has, by a quibble on the name, been by hypercritics, supposed the *Sir John Falstaff*, which our immortal bard has exhibited through his plays, in the various characters of an old, humourous, vaporing, cowardly, lewd, lying, drunken, and necessitous debauchee, who was constantly lounging about Prince Henry's court. Never were two characters more strongly and distinctly contrasted. When Prince Henry was degrading his high birth by associating with a Falstaff, the Norfolk hero was honourably employed, fighting the battles of his country in France. Fastolff, on record, was heir to large estates, and, afterwards, immensely rich. The poetical Falstaff was nearly three score years of age at the battle of Shrewsbury, A. D. 1403; when the historic Fastolff was not more than twenty-six. The former ended his career

career soon after Prince Henry ascended the throne—the latter survived King Henry the Fifth no less than thirty-seven years *.

## GREAT YARMOUTH.

The first mention of this town is in Domesday-book, whence it may be inferred, that it had originated in the early part of the Anglo-Saxon dynasty. As the sand-bank on which it stands gradually became firm ground, the fishermen, who frequented this part of the coast, erected temporary habitations; and finding it a convenient place for their occupation, many took up their residence here. Such has been generally the state of commerce in its infancy, and such was the origin of this port, which has progressively augmented in size and commercial consequence. About the year 1040, the northern channel of the Yare began to be obstructed by sand, which induced the inhabitants to move their dwellings towards the southern branch of the river. The town quickly increased from the influx of foreigners, who came to this mart for the sale, and purchase of fish; and in process of time it became the most flourishing sea-port town on this part of the English coast.

Having acquired some degree of importance, it was deemed necessary to provide for its security, by more effectual means than its natural barriers. Accordingly, in answer to a petition of the inhabitants, King Henry the Third granted them permission to erect walls, and environ the town with a moat. These works do not appear to have been commenced till the year 1285, although *murage* had been previously granted and paid. The walls were succeeded by the sinking of a moat, over which bridges were thrown at every gate. Thus fortified, the town was considered to be impregnable by any missile engines then in use. But upon war having been declared against France, in the year 1545, a large rampire was

* See a long account of Fastolff in the Biographia Britannica.

was thrown up on the eastern side, as an additional defence; and in 1557 this was further extended, but not completed till the year 1587. In consequence of the Spanish armada hovering off the coast, it was deemed adviseable to erect other works. In 1588, the deputy-lieutenants and justices met, and assessed on the county the sum of 1,355l. 4s. 9d. for the further defence of this town; and a strong garrison was quartered in it. A boom was laid across the river, and a mound of earth was raised higher than the walls, called the South Mount, on which were placed several large pieces of ordnance.

Little distinguished in its military annals, the *Castle* of Yarmouth has scarcely been mentioned in history. It was probably built soon after the town was immured. It had four turrets, or watch-towers, with a beacon on the top; and stood in the centre of the town. In 1550, the corporation appropriated this building to be used as the gaol. During subsequent periods of alarm, fire beacons were again erected, and the castle repaired. The upper part was taken down in 1620; and in the following year the whole of the fabric was ordered to be dismantled and demolished *.

In the year 1642, Yarmouth having declared for the parliament, the inhabitants proceeded to put the place in the best possible state of defence; but it was not till the Independents had acquired an ascendancy in the state, that the people would permit a garrison to be sent into the town.

The modern defence of Yarmouth is by three forts, which were erected on the verge of the beach, during the American war, and mounted with thirty-two-pounders. The harbour also is defended by two bastions of a mural construction, with two smaller bastions; one at the extremity of the *denes*, or sands, and the other on an elevated spot on the opposite side of the water.

Barracks, capable of containing a thousand men, are built on the

* Manuscript account of Great Yarmouth, by John Andrews, merchant, written about the year 1740.

the beach; and an Armoury has lately been erected under the direction of Mr. Wyatt. This building stands on the western side of the town, and is calculated to contain 10,000 stand of arms, besides a large assemblage of naval stores.

In the time of the Norman survey, a Church was standing in this place; and it is recorded, that Herbert, Bishop of Norwich, built a chapel, for prayers to be offered up for all persons trading to or from this port. Soon afterwards a more commodious church was erected, and dedicated to St. Nicholas; to which many persons, concerned in the fisheries, made numerous oblations. Near this building the same prelate founded a *monastery* for black monks, and made it a *cell* to the priory at Norwich. In succeeding times several other similar foundations were formed by the charity and liberality of different persons; but of such buildings no vestiges remain, except part of an hospital, which is converted into a house for a *grammar-school.*

A grand mart, or fair, for the sale of herrings, having been granted to the barons of the *Cinque Ports,* they deputed certain officers, as their bailiffs, to superintend and regulate the annual business transacted on that occasion. In these commissioned officers may be seen the first municipal jurisdiction of Yarmouth; and the Cinque Ports appear to have continued to exercise their prerogative during the continuance of the *free-fair,* long subsequent to the time when the town was constituted a burgh; their bailiffs having been admitted into court, to hear and determine causes, in conjunction with the magistrates of the town*. King Henry



* The litigations and contentions occasioned by the clashing interests of the two jurisdictions, it is said, were terminated by the king, and his council, in the tenth year of Edward the Third's reign. But disputes between the inhabitants of Yarmouth and those of Lowestoft continued till the second year of Henry the Fourth's reign, when an adjustment was agreed to. Neither of the decisions, however, were effectual, for in the year 1574, it was proposed that a bill should be laid before parliament to make Yarmouth one of the *Cinque Ports,* but the incorporation appears never to have been effected.

the First, A. D. 1109, took the place under his protection, and appointed a governor, called *prepositus*, or the *provost*. In the year 1208, by a charter, dated at Marlborough, in Wiltshire, King John erected the town into a *free burgh*, and granted it many immunities, on condition of its paying a fee-farm rent of fifty-five pounds annually, for ever, in lieu of customs arising from the port. Different Charters, to the number of twenty-five, were obtained from succeeding monarchs, by which the corporate powers and privileges were much extended. The last, granted by Queen Anne, March 11, 1702, settled the mode of government in its present form. Under this the corporation consists of a mayor, high steward, sub-steward, recorder, eighteen aldermen, inclusive of the mayor, thirty-six common councilmen, a town-clerk, two chamberlains, a water-bailiff, and other inferior officers.

The mayor*, high steward, recorder, sub-steward, and such aldermen who have previously served the office of mayor, are justices of the peace during their continuance in their respective offices.

* The mode of electing the mayor, &c. of Yarmouth is singular. In 1491, an assembly of twelve burgesses agreed to certain ordinances, which were ratified by Sir James Hobart, then attorney-general. In these it was decreed, that on the 29th of August, annually, an inquest should be chosen of twelve persons, who were to be locked up in the hall, without meat, drink, fire, or candle, till nine of them agreed in the choice of a mayor and other officers. The names of twenty-four persons, either common councilmen, or freemen, are put into four hats, and three from each are drawn out by a person, called an '*Innocent*,' to form the inquest. This mode is still adopted, and a child is employed as the Innocent. Such an impartial plan of election is not, however, very congenial to the spirit of intrigue and party zeal, which commonly characterise the civil and political electioneering proceedings of England; and which are too generally prevalent both in appointing corporation officers, and members of the senate. Private friendship, bribery, or some other undue influence, is often exerted to seduce majorities, and obtain nomination, even where the constitution has been so cautiously planned as in the present instance. As illustrative of this fact, we find, that in the year 1755, the burgesses, who were to

offices. The corporation * are invested with extensive privileges. They have a court of record, and admiralty, and their jurisdiction, as conservators of rivers, extends up the Waveney ten miles, the Yare ten miles, and the Bure ten miles; within which, in legal process and execution, they only can empower officers to act. Yarmouth sent members to parliament in the reign of Edward the First, equally early with Norwich and Lynn. The representatives are chosen by the *freemen*, who obtain their freedom either by inheritance, servitude, or purchase. The returning officer is the mayor; and the number of voters is nearly one thousand.

Yarmouth, though it never obtained the honour to which it had long aspired, of being reckoned among the Cinque Ports, yet it is evident that, at an early period, it was an important naval station. In the reign of King Edward the First, the ship-carpenters of Yarmouth received orders "*præpari navem pulcherrimam*," to build a very handsome vessel, which was to be sent to Norway for the king's daughter, who was to marry Prince Edward, afterwards King Edward the Second. Nash observes, that in the early part of Edward the Third's reign, this port had eighty ships, with forecastles, and forty without. At the memorable siege of Calais, by the latter monarch, several sea-ports were commanded to provide a certain number of vessels

 for

to appoint the mayor and officers, could not agree in their election, and were, consequently, kept prisoners within the hall from Friday, August 29, to the Wednesday following.

* In the year 1352, the corporation of Great Yarmouth agreed with the dean and canons of Windsor to grant them a last of red herrings, annually; but on what account does not appear. During the reign of King Henry the Sixth (1439), this agreement was further confirmed. The herrings appear to have been sometimes delivered in kind, sometimes a composition was paid instead, and, on some occasions, the corporation neglected to perform the annual custom; whence disputes and litigation ensued. In the year 1718, the town agreed to pay 9l. for that year, and 8l. for every succeeding year, to the dean and canons of Windsor, in lieu of the said last of herrings.

for besieging that town, in 1346. The north sea fleet consisted, on that occasion, of two hundred and forty sail, out of which number Yarmouth furnished forty-three*, on board of which were 1075 mariners; and John Perebourne, a burgess of the town, was appointed admiral†.

The inhabitants of Yarmouth have experienced great difficulties, and incurred continual and heavy expences in forming and preserving the Haven from decay. Their exertions have been arduous, and their efforts have, at length, been crowned with success. The present haven, the *seventh* which has been made by artificial means, cost 4,273l. 6s. 8d. It appears, from Swinden's history, that the expences incurred on this account, from the year 1567 to 1770, amounted to 241,578l. 9s. 11d. The present annual expences on the harbour, &c. amount to about 2,000l. For meeting this vast expenditure, various powers have been granted by eleven different acts of parliament; the last of which was obtained in the year 1800. By virtue of this, the collector has a right to charge, as a *harbour tax*, one shilling on every chaldron of coals, also on every last of grain and weigh of salt: the same tax is likewise levied on every ton of goods of a different description, fish excepted, which are unladen in the harbour of Yarmouth.

The

* London supplied only twenty-five. The whole fleet comprized 709 ships, having on board more than 14,000 men.

† The south sea fleet having joined, and proceeding to sea, June 13, 1340, they met the French fleet which was sent to oppose them, off Sluys, in Holland, when a very desperate engagement ensued; in which the French were completely defeated, with the loss of 230 ships, and 30,000 men. Nash observes, "the admiral so slashed and sliced them, and battered them with his *stone-darting* engines, that their best mercy was fire and water, which hath no mercy." *Greek fire*, composed of sulphur, bitumen, and naphtha, *combustible under water*, was used on that occasion. One Dupree, a few years ago, pretended to have discovered the long lost secret, and offered, unsuccessfully, to disclose it to the French Government. It appears to be partially revived in *Congreve's rockets*.

The grand plan of the new harbour was executed under the direction of *Joas Johnson*, a Dutchman, who was brought from Holland to conduct the work. He commenced his operations by driving and hedging down large stakes and piles to make a firm and substantial foundation. This was first done on the north side, and, afterwards, upon the south, for the purpose of forcing the refluent tide to run out, by a north-east channel, to the sea. The next step was the erecting piers and a jetty, for preventing the haven being overflowed, and preserving, at all states of tide, a sufficient depth of water for the ships to float at their moorings. The principal, or north pier, was, at bottom, forty feet wide; at top, twenty feet; and, in length, two hundred and thirty-five yards. This was formed with large timber trees joined, and braced together by cross beams and iron-work. For the defence of this pier, against the ravages of the ocean, a jetty was erected, in breadth, at the base, sixteen feet; at the upper part, eight; and, in length, two hundred and sixty-five yards. The south pier, which is better built than the north pier, is three hundred and forty yards long, thirty feet broad, and thirty deep: twenty-four feet of the depth is generally under water, which, previous to the erection of this pier was seldom more than three. This was intended for preventing the waters of the old haven from running out south, in their progress to the sea. These piers, &c. have been considerably improved at different periods since their erection, particularly in the mayoralty of Alderman Manship. The extent of the haven, between the north and south pier, is one thousand one hundred and eleven yards.

This place is advantageously situated for commerce, particularly to the north of Europe; and lying at the mouths of the rivers Yare, Bure, and Waveney, which are navigable for keels of forty tons, has ready communications with the interior. Besides fishing smacks, upwards of 300 vessels belong to this port*; and its



* Swinden observes that, fifty years before the time of his writing, more than 1,100 vessels, of all descriptions, belonged to this port. But this erroneous

mariners are considered amongst the most able and expert navigators in the kingdom. Of late years the importance of Yarmouth has been considerably increased, by its having become a grand station for part of our navy; the roads opposite the town affording safe anchorage for a numerous fleet. Its relative consequence may be seen by an act of parliament, passed in the year 1797, for the requisition of men for the navy, according to the tonnage of each port. The whole number to be raised was 17,948. The quota for London, 5,725; Liverpool, 1,711; Newcastle, 1,240; Hull, 731; Whitehaven, 700; Sunderland, 669; Bristol, 666; Whitby, 573; Yarmouth, 506.

*Yarmouth Roads* form not only a rendezvous for the North Sea fleet, but also for the numerous colliers, which pass from Shields, Sunderland, and Newcastle, to London, and from other ports to the southward. The harbour is deemed a secure asylum from the wide wasting elements, and ruthless storm; and is provided with two light-houses, one at Caister, and one at Garleston; yet the coast is the most dangerous in Britain*. A melancholy instance

roneous statement was occasioned by considering all, that cleared out from this place, as the property of its merchants; or from some peculiar privileges respecting port duties, which attach to ships that have been *built* at Yarmouth.

* This arises not only from the situation of the shore, and the want of sheltering bays, but also from the numerous sands, which are ever shifting their positions. A singular instance of nature's caprice on this shore, occurred about the year 1578, opposite to the village of Scratby, four miles to the north of Yarmouth.—A sand bank was thrown up, about a mile square, which becoming firm, grass grew, and sea-fowls made their nests on it. Parties, in the summer season, went upon it for their recreation. The corporation, thinking it permanent, formally took possession of it in the year 1580. In this appropriation they were opposed by Sir Edward Clere, Knt. who claimed it as part of his *manor of Scratby;* and accordingly placed a frame of timber upon it, in support of his right. The litigation of the case afforded high sport for the lawyers, who, however, were put to their *ne plus ultra* to determine, whether the bottom of the sea, if the

instance occurred in the year 1692; when a fleet of 200 sail of colliers, having left the roads with a fair wind, were suddenly assailed by a violent gale, from the north-east. After they had passed Winterton-ness, some of them tacked, and arrived back safe in the roads; the remainder pushed out to sea, but were unable, through its violence, to clear the ness to the southward. The night was excessively dark, and, missing the lights, few could find their way; some rode it out at a distance, but the rest, amounting to more than 140 sail, were driven ashore, completely wrecked, and scarcely any of their crews saved. At the same unfortunate juncture, a number of coasting vessels, laden with grain, bound to Holland, from Lynn and Wells, which had just left the roads, experienced the same disaster. So that, in the whole, more than 200 sail of vessels, and 1,000 people, were lost in one fatal night. It would be some alleviation to sympathy, were this the only event of such distress to record; but, in the year 1554, fifty sail of ships were lost in one day; and a similar catastrophe befel a larger number in the year 1790*.

The town of Yarmouth takes its form of an oblong quadrangle,

 comprising

the water thought proper to leave it, could come under the denomination of either *waif*, *wreck*, or *flotsam*. In the midst of the contention, nature easily terminated a point which they found so difficult to decide—a boisterous sea, with a strong easterly wind, *in a single night*, swept all away!

* The dangers of this particular part of the sea are satisfactorily accounted for, from the situation of the coast, and the course which vessels navigating it are obliged to steer. Between Flamborough and Spuror heads, and Winterton-ness, the most easterly points of land on this side of the island, except the North Foreland, the land retreats inwards, forming a large bay, at the bottom of which is the metaris-estuarium. If vessels, leaving Flamborough Head, proceed southward, and meet with a hard gale from any point between N. E. and S. E.; or, if leaving Yarmouth roads, proceeding northward, they are retarded by the wind blowing hard from the N. E. so that they cannot weather Winterton-ness, they become embayed, and the only chance of safety is to run for Lynn-deeps; in attempting which, they are in danger of foundering on the *rocks near Cromer*, or stranding upon the *flat shores* between *Cromer* and *Wells*.

comprising thirty-three acres, from the shape of the peninsula on which it stands, having the sea on the east, and on the west the Yare; over which river there is a handsome drawbridge, forming a communication with the county of Suffolk. It contains four principal streets, running parallel, which are crossed at right angles by 156 narrower ones, denominated *rows**. These intersections give the place an appearance of regularity, observable only where a town has been built under one uniform plan. The whole is flanked by a wall on the east, north, and south sides, 2,240 yards in length; which, with the west side next the river, 2,030 yards; make the circumference 4,270 yards, or two miles and 750 yards. According to the returns of population to parliament, in 1801, the number of houses was 3,159, and the inhabitants amounted to 14,845. Though so large a place, it forms but one parish, and had but one *Church*, that of *St. Nicholas*, which was erected by Herbert Losinga, in the year 1123; and greatly enlarged in the year 1250. It consists of a nave, two ailes, a transept, and had lately a spire, 186 feet high, which was taken down in the year 1803. The organ is said to be inferior to none, except the celebrated instrument at Haerlem, in Holland†. This church, till the year 1716, was the only place of worship for persons of the establishment, when a handsome chapel was erected, and dedicated to St. George.

The

* The unusual narrowness of these rows has obliged the inhabitants to adopt, for the conveyance of goods, *narrow carts*, mounted upon low wheels, of very singular construction. Each of these is drawn by a single horse, and the driver stands in front of the cart.

† There were no less than seventeen chapels, or oratories, in this church, each of which had its image, altar, lights, &c. supported by a society called a *Guild*. From an old register, it appears that the priests contrived to *amuse*, if not *deceive*, the common people, in the delusive age of popery, by means of *pantomical machinery*. The miraculous *star* in the east was occasionally represented. "In 1465, paid for *leading* the *star* 3d.; on the twelfth day making a new star. In 1506, for hanging and scouring the star; *a new balk line to the star, and rysing the star* 8d. In 1512, *for a nine thread line to lead the star*," &c.

The *Fisherman's Hospital* is of a quadrangular form, and contains twenty rooms on the ground-floor, each of which is intended for an old fisherman and his wife, who have a weekly allowance in money, and an annual allowance of coals.

The *Hospital School*, for feeding, clothing, and educating, thirty boys, and twenty girls, is supported by the corporation.

The *Charity School*, in which are clothed and educated seventy boys, and thirty girls, is supported by voluntary subcriptions.

The *Town Hall*, situated near the centre of the quay, is a handsome building, with a portico of the Tuscan order in front. The council-room, which is also used for assemblies, is a fine well-proportioned apartment. At one end is a full length portrait of King George the Second, in his coronation robes.

The *Quay* of Yarmouth is justly the pride and boast of the inhabitants; for it is allowed to be equal to that of Marseilles, and the most extensive and finest in Europe, except the far-famed one at Seville, in Spain. Its length, from the south gate to the bridge, is 1014 yards, beyond which it extends, for smaller vessels, 1016 yards, making a continuation of one mile and two hundred and seventy yards. In many places it is one hundred and fifty yards broad; and the southern part of the line is decorated with a range of handsome buildings.

Yarmouth has long been much frequented as a fashionable *watering-place*, and furnishes every accommodation for the health, comfort, and amusement of its visitors. A *bathing-house*, erected in the year 1759, stands upon the beach, and commands a beautiful view of the roads. On each side of the vestibule is a bath, one appropriated to gentlemen, and the other to ladies. A public room was added to this building in the year 1788, where the company are served with tea, wine, &c. During the season public breakfasts are given here twice a week.

A neat *Theatre* was erected in the year 1778, in which plays, during the summer months, are performed four times a week. These, with concerts and other amusements, tend to relieve the dull vacuity attendant upon lounging at a watering-place.

Yarmouth

Yarmouth was early distinguished, and still remains unrivalled, in the HERRING FISHERY. The herring has been noticed by naturalists, for its gregarious and migratory propensities. Shoals of them pass from the north to the south, and from the east to the west, in quest of food, for the purposes of depositing their spawn in the rivers, and enjoying that proportion of warmth which appears essential to their existence. When the weather becomes cold, they leave the North Seas, and steer to the American rivers, and other more southern climes; as the weather changes to heat, they revisit the north, and then descend to the shores of Britain and Ireland, and thus, by an instinctive change of place, experience that perpetual temperature which appears to be best adapted to their nature *.

A large shoal appears off the Shetland Isles in the month of June. Here they separate into two divisions, one of which takes the eastern side of Britain, and the other the western. The latter is again divided by Ireland, part of which appears on its eastern coast, while the other crosses the Atlantic Ocean, and visits the American shores. Some of these brigades, belonging to the former grand division, appear off the eastern coast of England about the month of September, when the grand fishing season commences.

The merchants of this coast fit out large decked boats, from forty to fifty tons burden, each of which is manned with a master, mate, hawseman, waleman, net-rope man, and net-stower man, besides five or six labourers, called capstern-men. These all engage to serve the season, at stipulated wages, with an allowance of a certain sum per *last* of herrings to the master, mate, hawseman, and waleman. The vessels victualled, and having some tons of salt on board, proceed four, six, or even twelve leagues from the shore. Every boat is furnished with eighty

* For a further account of the herring, the fishery, &c. see "Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society," Vol. II. for the year 1786. Pennant's "British Zoology," Vol. III. p. 335; and Dr. Garnett's "Tour in Scotland," Vol. I.

eighty or a hundred nets, each of which is twenty-one yards long, and eight and a half deep. These are fastened in a length to a war-rope by cords, called *seasons*, each of which is three fathoms long. The nets are floated by corks, and the war-rope by tubs, or buoys. At dusk the net is thrown over the side of the boat, which is steered gently away under a small fore-sail. The net is drawn up again at day-light. When landed, they are taken to the fish-houses, again salted, and, after lying on the floor twenty-four hours, are washed in vats by the curers, called *towers;* spitted through the head, upon spits about four feet long, by women, called *rivers;* and then hung up in the fish-house. The latter is a large building, from forty to fifty feet high, fitted up for the purpose of receiving the spits in tiers. Thus prepared, a wood fire is kindled under them, and continued, with small intermissions, for about a month; when, being properly smoked*, they are packed in barrels containing one thousand each, and are then ready for the market.

Numerous boats from other places are allowed to fish, and to sell their cargoes at the free Michaelmas mart, which lasts a month. In the year 1784, fifty-five boats were fitted out from Yarmouth; forty from Lowestoff; fifty from Whitby and Scarborough; and sixty-two came from Holland. A single boat has been known to bring in at one time twelve lasts of herrings; each last

* *William Buckelsz*, a Swede, who died in the year 1397, was supposed to have been the inventor of *pickling herrings*. But in Leland's Collectanea, Vol. III. p. 173, it is recorded as a fact, that pickled herrings were sold as early as A. D. 1273. It may fairly be presumed that preserving herrings, by *smoking* and *drying*, if not by pickling, is more ancient than has been recorded. Mr. Thomas Nashe, in a pamphlet he published in the year 1599, entitled "Lenten Stuffe, containing the description and first procreation of the town of Great Yarmouth, with a new play of the praise of red herrings," ascribes the discovery to *accident*, by a fisherman having hung some up in his cabin, where, "what with his fiering and smoking, or smokie-fiering, in that his narrow *lobby*, his herrings, which were as white as whalebone, when he hung them up, now lookt as *red as a lobster*."

last consisting of ten barrels*. A last of herrings, on an average, is worth sixteen pounds, though the price materially varies, at different times. How important this fishery is to the nation, as well as to this place, may be inferred from the consideration, that when Yarmouth was in a flourishing state, it employed two hundred fishing vessels; and in successful years, seventy thousand barrels have been exported, exclusive of the home consumption, which may be stated at fifteen thousand more. The trade affords the principal means of subsistence to about two thousand fishermen, and four thousand braiders, beetsters, towers, rivers, ferrymen, carpenters, caulkers, &c. besides the number of seamen employed in carrying the fish to foreign markets.

Formerly, a *summer* fishing for herrings was usually practised, and numerous French and Dutch vessels frequented the coast for the purpose. But in the first year of James the First's reign, A. D. 1603, a bill was brought into parliament to prohibit the fishing for summer herrings, but was rejected; and since that period no attempt at such a restriction has been necessary, the herrings having ceased to frequent the English coast during the warm season. In the course of the summer months the boats are employed in the mackerel fishery, which is very considerable; but of minor importance, in a commercial view.

That destructive malady, the *plague*, has prevailed in this town at several different periods, and swept away a vast number of inhabitants. In the year 1348, it is stated, that 7052 persons died of this disorder; but this account appears to be exaggerated, for, at that period, the whole population of the town could scarcely exceed that number. Again, in the year 1579, it is related, that about 2000 persons were carried off by this disease, between May and Michaelmas. The same malady is said to have raged here

* The last of white herrings, delivered out of the boat, contains 13,200 fish.

here in the year 1664, when 2500 people, including the two ministers, were victims to its deleterious influence.

The town of Yarmouth was particularly distinguished during Kett's rebellion, which originated about the inclosure of common fields. It is supposed that the two Ketts assembled nearly 20,000 men; among whom were the mayor of Norwich, and a clergyman, named Watson. These were constrained to be present at all their councils. Coming secretly to Yarmouth, they surprised and seized the two bailiffs, but these escaped and fortified the town. Kett, with his comrades, planted six pieces of cannon in a close at Gorleston, with intent to fire on, and besiege the town: but the inhabitants setting fire to a stack of hay, thereby contrived to annoy the assailants so much by its smoke, that they were incapable of producing any effect by their ordnance. In their confusion they were routed and defeated by the townsmen, but Kett afterwards rallied on the Denes, and was again defeated. Expecting other assaults from the rebels, the town was additionally fortified, and the inhabitants organized themselves to withstand, or repel, a siege. They fitted out some ships of war, caparisoned thirteen horsemen and eighteen bowmen, and captains and men were appointed to each of the eight wards. Several additional constables and bailiffs were sworn into office, and, by this vigilance, they preserved the town from the threatened hostilities.

The sea-coast opposite to, and for about two miles north and south of Yarmouth, is nearly a level common, and is elevated between two and three yards above high water mark. From the verdant edge of the common to the sea, is a gentle slope, composed of a fine sand, intermixed with a great quantity of loose pebbles, called *shingles*. As the tides seldom rise above six feet, the distance from high to low water mark, is but a few yards. The sands, between high water mark and the turf of the common, abounds with marine plants, some of which are deemed rare and curious. The Rev. Mr. Turner of this town, who has carefully and scientifically studied the botany of the county, has given an account

account of some of the natural productions of this part of the coast, in "An Historical Guide to Great Yarmouth," 12mo. 1806, from which the following list is derived:

"*Bunias Cakile*, Sea Rocket, in many places approaches nearest to the water, striking its fibrous roots into the loose sand, and harbouring between the stones. Its purplish flowers, resembling those of the small kind of stock, enliven the bare spot on which it grows.

*Salsola Kalli*, Prickly Glasswort, is here but sparingly found, accompanying the former.

*Arundo Arenaria*, Sea Reed-Grass, grows somewhat higher, in scattered tufts, forming little hillocks of sand.

*Arenaria Peploides*, Sea Chick-weed, remarkable for the depth and length to which it runs its roots, is found first sparingly, but, afterwards, in such plenty, that its broad stiff leaves make the chief verdure of the sandy beach near its junction with the turf of the common.

*Eryngium Maritimum*, Eryngo, or Sea Holly. This singular and beautiful plant grows in an irregular scattered manner on the beach, and also strays higher on the common, where it is most naked and sandy.

*Carex Arenaria*, Sea-sand Carex. This, where it begins, forms a regular line at an equal distance from the sea, first thinly covering the sand, but growing thicker and thicker as one proceeds higher. Its horizontal creeping roots, and frequent shoots, bind the sand in the manner of the reed grass.

*Convolvolus Soldenella*, Sea Bird-weed, grows most plentifully at the edge of the junction of the beach with the common, or upon the barest spots of the latter, laying its large and beautiful flowers upon the naked sand. It is really surprising to see so fine a flower growing abundantly upon so exposed and barren a soil.

*Ononis Repens*, Creeping Restharrow. This grows thinly on the beach, but copiously on the sandy parts of the common, running its strong roots very far into the loose soil.

*Galium Verum*, Ladies Bed-straw. This appears thin and scattered

scattered about the junction of the beach with the common, but, afterwards, becomes so plentiful as to form the chief covering of the sandiest side of the common, scenting the air with its strong perfume, when in flower.

These are plants which may be considered as properly belonging to the sandy slope of land, from high water mark to the level of the verdant common, here called the Denes."

Among the natives of Yarmouth, may be noticed ARTHUR WILSON, who was born here in the year 1596, and for many years was an attendant on Robert D'Evereux, Earl of Essex. He wrote an account of the Life and Reign of James the First*; in which publication he displays a thorough knowledge of the intrigues of the court. The freedom he took in exposing the propensities of that monarch and his son, towards the catholic cause, experienced vehement censure from the friends of the Stewart family; and by that party he is said to have written from conjectures, rather than from records; and that his work is more like a *pasquin*, than *an authentic history*. He died at Felsted, in Essex, A. D. 1652.

DR. THOMAS SOAMES was the son of a fisherman of this place. He received the rudiments of his education at the grammar-school, and was sent, for its completion, to Peterhouse College, Cambridge, of which house his uncle, Robert Soames, was master. Having entered into holy orders, he became minister of Staines, in Middlesex, and prebendary of Windsor. During the civil war he was zealously attached to royalty, and among many others, who evinced their loyalty by their privations and their sufferings, he was particularly distinguished. Being seized by the rebels, they first sent him to Newgate, and, afterwards, to the Fleet-prison, where he died in the year 1652.

SIR WILLIAM GOOCH, BART. was born in this town, October 21, A. D. 1681. He entered early into the army, and distinguished

* This work was printed in 1653.

distinguished himself, particularly in the Scotch rebellion, in the year 1715. In 1727, King George the First made him lieutenant-governor of Virginia, where, by his impartial conduct and attention to the interests of the colony, he acquired additional reputation. In the year 1740, he was appointed colonel of an American regiment, and assisted at the memorable siege of *Carthagena*. For his services he was promoted, first being made brigadier-general, and then major-general, in which capacity, in 1747, he commanded in the expedition to *Quebec*. His health declining, he returned to England, and died, December 17, 1751.

HENRY SWINDEN, a diligent antiquary, who had collected, and digested, a large mass of information respecting this his native place, died, while the last sheet* was printing, January 11, 1772; in which year it was published under the superintendence of Mr. Ives.

JOHN IVES, F. R. S. and F. S. A. another native, eminent for his skill in antiquarian science, was born in Yarmouth, 1750, and died in 1776. He published an account of the Garianonum of the Romans, and some other miscellaneous essays on Antiquities, &c. Peculiarly attached to this branch of research, he devoted the greater part of his life to it, and being possessed of a considerable fortune was thereby enabled to purchase numerous MSS. coins, books, &c. He wrote the preface to Swinden's History of Yarmouth, and exerted himself in promoting the sale, &c. of that work.

* "Remarks upon the Garianonum," &c. preface to 2nd edition.

END OF THE ACCOUNT OF NORFOLK.

# A LIST

OF THE

## *Principal Books, Maps, and Prints, that have been published respecting the Antiquities, Topography, &c. of*

## THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK.

MANY volumes have been published relating to this county; but the chief of them are merely dull, crude collections; and are to be considered rather as works of local reference, than as books of an historical and descriptive character. The antiquities, natural features, manufactures, and commercial history, still remain to be developed: and these constitute the most interesting subjects for general reading.

SIR HENRY SPELMAN appears to have been the first Topographer who published any thing concerning Norfolk: and his work is very slight. It was printed in his "*Reliquiæ*," Oxf. 1698; and again in 1727, by Bishop Gibson, under the title of "*Icenia sive Norfolciæ Descriptio Topographica.*"

PETER LE NEVE, a native of this county, made a considerable collection to illustrate its Topography, some of which came into the possession of the Rev. Francis Blomefield, who incorporated them in

"*An Essay towards a Topographical History of the County of* NORFOLK, containing a description of the towns, villages, and hamlets, with the foundations of monasteries, churches, chapels, chanteries, and other religious buildings: also an account of the ancient and present state of all the rectories, vicarages, donatives, and impropriations, their former and present patrons, and incumbents, with their several valuations in the king's books, whether discharged or not: likewise an historical account of the castles, seats, and manors, their present and ancient owners; together with the epitaphs, inscriptions, and arms, in all the parish churches and chapels; with several draughts of churches, monuments, arms, ancient ruins, and other relics of antiquity. Collected out of ledger-books, registers, records, evidences, deeds, court-rolls, and other authentic memorials."

This work was first printed at the author's own house at Fersfield, in three volumes folio, and published in numbers. Vol. I. contains the hundreds of Diss, Giltcross, Shropham, the burgh of Thetford, Grimeshoe, Wayland, and Forehoe. Vol. II. comprehends the History of Norwich. Vol. III. contains the Hundreds of Humble-

yard, Depewade, Earsham, Henstede, S. Greenhoe, S. Erpingham: the remaining nineteen hundreds were left unfinished. Blomefield was greatly assisted by Bishop Tanner, who, having been chancellor of this diocese, was acquainted with many records relative to the county; but died, as well as the author, before the work was finished. The latter intended to join his own collections with Le Neve's, but dying in bad circumstances, they were put into the hands of the late Mr. Parkin, rector of Oxburgh, who drew up the account of Cranwich and Fyncham deaneries, in that part which was unfinished, and completed the rest with a view to publication. On his death it came, with his library, including great part of Mr. Blomefield's, into the possession of Mr. Whittingham, bookseller at Lynn; who, in 1769, printed Parkin's completion of Blomefield's third volume, containing the Hundreds of Gallow, Brothercross, and part of S. Erpingham; and in two volumes more, 1775, the continuation, describing, but in a much more confused and contracted manner than Mr. Blomefield, the Hundreds of Blofield, Clackclose, Clavering, N. Erpingham, Eynford, Freebridge, N. Greenhow, Happing, Holt, Launditch, Loddon, Mitford, Smethdon, Taverham, Tunstede, Walsham, E. and W. Flegg, and the boroughs of Lynn and Yarmouth.

A new edition of this work has been recently published by W. Miller, London, in eleven volumes, royal octavo; a few copies of which are printed on royal quarto paper.

"*A description of the Diocese of Norwich; or, the present state of Norfolk and Suffolk*, &c. By a gentleman of the Inner Temple, and native of the Diocese of Norwich, Lond. 1735," 8vo. Mr. Gough calls this very slight and trifling.

"*The Norfolk Tour*, or Traveller's Pocket Companion; being a concise description and present state of all the noblemen and gentlemen's seats," &c. 8vo. 1772. A second edition, 1774; and a *sixth edition*, "greatly enlarged and improved," was published in 1808.

"*The History of the Rebellion in Norfolk*, in the year 1549, which was conducted by Robert Kett, a tanner by trade, at Wymondham; their final overthrow on the 27th of August, by the conduct and valiant behaviour of the noble Earl of Warwick. Norw. 1751," 1766, 8vo.

"*General View of the Agriculture of the County of Norfolk*: drawn up for the consideration of The Board of Agriculture, and internal improvement. By the Secretary to the Board. 1804," 8vo. pp. 552. 9*s*. boards.

"*General View of the Agriculture of the County of Norfolk*; with observations for the means of its improvement. Drawn up for the consideration of The Board of Agriculture, and internal improvement, by Nathaniel Kent, of Fulham, Middlesex. With additional Remarks from several respectable Gentlemen and Farmers. Lond. 1796." 8vo. pp. 252.

"*Cromer considered as a Watering-place*; with Observations on the

the Picturesque Scenery in its Neighbourhood, by Edmund Bartell, Jun. Lond. 1806." 8vo. pp. 140.

"An Account of the Lamentable Burning of East Dereham, in the County of Norfolk, July 1, 1581," in verse, Black Letter, 1582.

"Occasional Reflections on a Journey from London to Norwich, and Cambridge, 1716," 8vo. containing some humorous remarks on persons, places, &c. in Norfolk, &c.

The discovery of nearly fifty urns, with bones, &c. in a field at Old Walsingham, in 1657, occasioned Sir T. Browne's "Hydriotaphia, urne-burial: or a discourse of the sepulchral urnes lately found in Norfolk. Lond. 1658," 8vo. Reprinted in his works, 1686, fol. 4th edit. 1736. In his posthumous works, published from his original MSS. in the hands of Sir Hans Sloane, 1712, is another discourse concerning some bones found in Brampton-field in Norfolk, 1667.

FENNS.—Most of the publications respecting the Fenns, already referred to at the end of the Accounts of Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire, also relate to this county.

## NORWICH.

The first printed account of this city is "*Alexandri Nevylli Angli Norvicus.* Lond. 1575," 4to. Printed at the end of his book "De Furoribus Norfolciensium Ketto duce." Lond. ap. Binneman, 1575, 4to. and Kettus, sive de Furoribus, &c. at the end of Ocland's "Anglorum Prælia ab A.D. 1327, usque ad A.D. 1558, 1582," 12mo. The first of these editions has an engraved map of the descent of the British and Saxon kings; and "nomina prætorum et vicecomitum Norwicensium ab an. primo H. 4 ad 17 Eliz." To both is prefixed a poem on Archbishop Parker's death: the plates by R. Lyne and Rem. Hogenbergius, servants to that prelate 1574, to whom Nevill was secretary. Translations of it were published under the titles of "The History of the Norfolk Rebels, by Alexander Nevill, a Kentish man; with the History of Norwich, and a catalogue of the mayors. Lond. 1575," 4to.

"*Annals of Norwich,*" and a history of its bishops, published by Wharton in his Anglia Sacra; were collected, Mr. Gough says, out of a History of England, compiled from Malmsbury, by Bartholomew Cotton, about the end of the thirteenth century.

"*The Norfolk Furies,* and their foyle under Kett, their accursed captaine; with a description of the famous citie of Norwich; and a catalogue of the severall governours thereof, from the dayes of King Edred, with the succession of the bishops there, since the translation of the sea thither, with other memorable accidents. Englisht by Rich. Woods, minister of Fretnam, out of the Latine copy of Alex. Nevill. Lond. 1623."

"*Norfolk's Furies,* or a view of Kett's Camp, with a table of the mayors and sheriffs of Norwich, &c. done out of Latin into English, by R. W. Lond. 1615," 4to. 1702, 12mo.

"*A True*

" *A True Description of the City of Norwich,* both in its ancient and modern state, being collected out of the choicest MSS. and authentic authors. Norwich, printed for E. Burges, 1706," 4to.

" *A Short History of the City of Norwich,* collected from divers authentic authors. Norwich, 1706," 8vo.

" *The Records of Norwich,* containing the monuments in the cathedral, the bishops, the plagues, fires, martyrs, hospitals, &c." was printed at Norwich, 1736—8, 8vo. In two parts. Price three halfpence.

" *A Compleat History of the Famous City of Norwich,* from the earliest accounts to this present year 1728, &c. with a large chronology of occurrences in and near the city, an exact list of the bishops, mayors, and sheriffs, &c. and of the posts and carriers; also of the present bishops and deans of England, and of all the judges; to which is an annexed an exact map of the city; published at the request of several ingenious gentlemen, citizens, and other curious persons. Norwich, 1728," 8vo. After p. 38, follows " An Appendix to the chronological history, taken from an authentic MS. found in the study of a late noted antiquary in this county:" and " An Abridgement of Neville's Norfolk Furies." A *plan* of the city by John Hoyle.

" *An Authentic History of the Ancient City of Norwich,* from its foundation to its present state; collected from the best accounts, both in print and manuscript, to this present year 1738, by Thomas Eldridge, F. C. N. Norwich, 1738." 8vo.

" *The History of the City and County of Norwich,* from the earliest accounts to the present time. Norw. 1768," 8vo. Printed for Martin Booth, and first published in numbers: with Kirkpatrick's, N.E. view of the city, and others of the Cathedral, Erpingham Gate, Castle, Guildhall, Cross, and Theatre.

Amongst Sir Thomas Browne's posthumous works, published from his papers in the possession of his grandson Owen Brigstock, Esq.; F.R.S. 8vo. 1712, is " Repertorium: or, some account of the tombs and monuments in the cathedral church of Norwich, begun by Sir Thomas Browne, and continued from the year 1680 to this present time, illustrated with several copper plates of the principal monuments, &c. mostly at the expence of the nobility and gentry of this county. Lond. 1712," 8vo. To this are annexed " Antiquitates capellæ D. Johannis Evangelistæ; hodie scholæ regiæ Norwicensis. Authore Joanne Burton, M.A. ejusdem ludimagistro;" communicated by his son, the Rev. Mr. Joshua Burton. At the end is a list of the dignitaries of this church, with large alterations and corrections, first published by Dean Prideaux, in a broad sheet. Republished 1721 with a new preface.

" *An Essay on the Antiquity of the Castel of Norwich;* its founders and governors, from the kings of the East Angles down to modern times. Norwich 1728," 8vo. Blomefield, vol. ii. p. 6, says this is an ingenious author, but does not tell his name. Gough says it was Thornhaugh Gurdon, Esq. of Letton, author of " The History of the High

High Court of Parliament, its antiquity, preheminence, and authority, and the history of court baron and court leet; a chronological history of them, from the earliest times drawn down to the present; together with the rights of lords of manors in common pastures, and the growth of the privileges the tenants now enjoy there." 2 vols. 8vo. 1731.

" Queen Elizabeth's Progress to Norwich, 1576; collected by B. G. [B. Goldingham,] and T. C. [Thomas Churchyard.] Imprinted at London by Bynneman," 4to. with a map of Norwich, by John Day. The substance of these accounts is inserted in Fleming's Supplement to Hollinshed, II. 1287-1299, and in Blomefield's History of Norwich, p. 226-248. Ames omits it.

F. Burgess's " Observations on the Origin and first Use of Printing, particularly at Norwich," was the first piece printed there, 1761, and was reprinted in the Harleian Miscellany, Vol. III. p. 148.

" A Companion to St. Andrews Hall in the City of Norwich; giving a concise description of that ancient building; a Catalogue of the Pictures contained therein, and the names of the Artists by whom they were painted, Brought down to the Year 1808. Norwich," 8vo. pp. 32.

" An Abstract of several Acts of Parliament relating to the City of Norwich: 1. the act for the erecting of a workhouse for maintaining the poor; 2. for the enlightning the streets; 3. for erecting a court of conscience in the said city. Published by order of the clerk of the workhouse. Norw. 1713," 12mo.

## YARMOUTH.

" *A Description of the Towne of* GREAT YAREMOUTH, in the county of Norfolk, with a survey of Little Yaremouth, incorporated with Great Yaremouth, in the county of Suffolk, as it hath been lately staked out in order to the rebuilding in pursuance of an act of parliament, and letters patent from his majesty, to which place is granted all the priviledges of the towne of Great Yaremouth."

" The History and Antiquities of the Ancient Burgh of Great Yarmouth in the County of Norfolk, collected from the corporation charters, records, and evidences; and other the most authentic materials. By Henry Swinden. Norwich 1772," 4to. " The author, a schoolmaster in this town, dying Jan. 14, 1772, left this work nearly printed off, committing the publication of it to Mr. Ives, who, in his preface, informs us of a confused manuscript history of the town, written by Mr. Henry Manship, 1619; and that Mr. Thomas Barber of the custom-house, had made valuable manuscript collections to the same purpose, both which were used by Mr. Swinden, who seems to have exhausted the subject in his copious and dry work."

Gough's Topog. II. 18.

" *The History of Great Yarmouth,* collected from ancient records, and other authentic materials. Lynn 1776," 8vo. This, Mr. Gough says, is Parkin's account of it republished in a smaller size, from the History of Norfolk, with a " miserable view of the town."

KING'S

KING'S LYNN.—" *The History and Antiquities of the flourishing Corporation of* KING'S LYNN; containing whatever is or hath been curious, in every respect, in this town: giving also a particular account of whatever is contained in each parish church, or chapel, &c. the several charters from time to time, with a catalogue of all the mayors, &c. with a particular description and account of King John's sword and cup, &c. &c. 1738," 8vo. with cuts. Published, according to Gough, by Mr. Benjamin Mackerell, a gentleman of Norwich: the chief of the history was written some years previous, by Mr. John Green. A New History of the Town is announced by the Rev. Mr. Richards.

" *Ædes Walpolianæ*, or a description of the collection of pictures at Houghton Hall, in Norfolk, the seat of the Right Honorable Sir Robert Walpole, Earl of Orford. The second edition with additions. Lond. 1752," 4to. By the Hon. Horace Walpole. To which is annexed " a sermon on painting, preached before the Earl of Orford at Houghton, 1742," and " A Journey to Houghton, a poem by the Rev. Mr. Whaley."

## THETFORD.

" *The History of the Ancient City and Burgh of* THETFORD, in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk: shewing its rise, increase, decrease, and present state. By Francis Blomefield, Rector of Fersfield in Norfolk. Printed at Fersfield, 1739," 4to. Inserted likewise in the first volume of his History of Norfolk; with Dr. Plott's Letter to the Earl of Arlington, concerning the old Sitomagus, printed in Hearne's Antiquities of Glastonbury, p. 227.

" *The History of the Town of* THETFORD," &c. by the late Thomas Martin, F.A.S. 4to. 1779. An advertisement by Mr. Gough, and a short account of the author: also 7 plates.

## MAPS and PLANS.

A New and Accurate Map of Norfolk, sold by Goodman and Goddard. W. Roades sc. 1740, with prospects of Lynn, Norwich, Yarmouth, list of towns, &c.

*Norfolk Surveyed by James Corbridge*, with a list of the towns, and prospects of Norwich, Lynn, and Yarmouth, on two sheets of Atlas, 4 feet by 2½: also on one sheet with circular meridian lines, three miles from Norwich, and the list: and on two sheets with the views: 2 feet 3½ by 1 foot 8: scale three miles to an inch. On the top eight coats of arms, and down the sides an alphabetical list of towns with references, names of hundreds, and distances of market towns from Norwich, and concentric circles round Norwich and Lynn, shewing the distance from other towns. This map of Norfolk, and one of Suffolk, were republished in 1776.

*An Actual Survey of the County of Norfolk*, to which is added an

actual survey of the County of Suffolk, by James Corbridge. Dedicated to Sir Robert Walpole: with concentric circles round Bury, Lynn, and Norwich, and list of towns in each county; and at bottom distances of towns from London, &c. and principal towns in Suffolk: one sheet and half.

"*A Topographical Map of the County of Norfolk,*" on six sheets, surveyed by Thomas Milne, &c. Published by Faden, London. A reduced copy of this is also published on one sheet: and these may be pronounced the most accurate maps of the county.

A very useful map has recently been published, by Smith, in the Strand, London, of the different dioceses, and provinces.

In Dr. William Cunyngham's "Cosmographical glass, 1559," folio, is a map of the *excellent City of Norwich.*

Another in Braun's Civitates. P. III. 1581.

*A true and exact Mapp of the Ancient and Famous City of Norwich,* anno. 1696. In four sheets. Dedicated to Henry Duke of Norfolk, with his, and the city arms, by Thomas Cleer, surveyor. He published another nearly half the size of the first.

A new map of it, by M.M. John Hoyle sc. 8 inches by 7.

*A Map of the City of Norwich,* by James Corbridge, 1727: engraved by J. Harris, on two sheets of imperial paper, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $2\frac{1}{2}$; with views of all the public buildings.

*A Plan of the City of Norwich,* 1746. Fr. Blomefield del. and exc. This belongs to his history, and is embellished with forty-four ancient seals, and other curiosities.

In 1766 was published *A New and very accurate Plan of the City of Norwich,* shewing the exact length and breadth of all the streets and lanes, with their bearings, bendings, and proper names; ornamented with the prospects of the cathedral, castle, guildhall, theatre, assembly-house, and the new chapel in St. George's; from an actual survey taken by Samuel King, painter and land surveyor at Norwich, and laid down by a scale of three chains (or 66 yards) to an inch. Two sheets. This was reduced the same year, and for Booth's History of Norwich, 1768, on a small scale, with the same views.

Plans, Elevations, &c. of NORWICH CASTLE, with an Essay on the *Venta Icenorum,* are published in Volume XII. of Archaeologia.

*A Plan of the City of Norwich,* with a Vignette View of St. Ethelbert's Gate, also Arms of the See, &c. is published in "*the British Atlas.*"

In the same work is also a Map of the County, wherein the Roman Roads and Stations are particularly specified.

## PRINTS.

An Ichnography of Norwich Cathedral, drawn by Blomefield, engraved by Toms, at the expence of the Society of Antiquaries.

King

King engraved S. and W. views of Norwich Cathedral.

N. E. view of the Cathedral, drawn by Kirkpatrick, was engraved by J. Harris, 1742.

Henry the First's grant of Thorpe manor, near Norwich, to Norwich Cathedral, 1101, was engraved from the original, in the hands of Matthew Howard, gent. of Hackney, lord of the said manor, 1728.

"An ordinary pewter prospect," says Mr. Gough, "of the cross, built by Mr. Rightwise 1501, and pulled down 1732, was drawn by J. Stark, and engraved by T. Hillyard. Another drawn 1732, by Sheldrake, was engraved by A. Motte. The cross was served by Priests of Carrow Abbey, and in the chamber which was the chapel, were marks of an altar.

S. W. view of Norwich Castle and the shire-house, bridge, &c. mezzotinto. Mr. Gough, speaking of this view, says—Mr. Fenn informs me he never saw but one impression of this plate, under which was written, by Mr. Meheux, "This castle was built by J. Cæsar, and the crack is supposed to have happened at the crucifixion of our Saviour Christ. Made by James Meheux, Limner. Any persons that desier to have any picturs done by Mr. James Meheux, may privately leave a note with Mr. Rose, bookseller in Norwich; and when there are as many to be done as is worth coming from London, he'll come and do them at the usuall rate, which is 40*s.* a picture."

# INDEX

*To the Topographical Account of Norfolk,*

*FORMING PART OF THE ELEVENTH VOLUME*

OF THE

# BEAUTIES OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

The MARKET TOWNS are distinguished by Small Capitals; the *Villages* by Italics.


A

ABBIES, remarks on, 40-43; Langley, 206; Thetford, 245; Old Buckenham, 254; Wymondham, 257; East Dereham, 265; West Dereham, 284; Creake, 311; St. Bennet's at Holme, 343.

*Acle*, anciently a market town, 198.

Agriculture, improvements in, 95, 96-98; implements of, 99, 100.

*Aldby*, priory at, 200.

ANECDOTES of Sir Thomas Erpingham, 159; Bishop Bateman, 171; Archbishop Parker, 172-174; Dr. Kaye, 175-177; Dr. Browne, 177; Dr. Clarke, 178, 179; Dr. Cunningham, 180; Dr. Legge, Bishop Cosin, 181; Edward King, antiquary, 182-184; Sir James Hobart and family, 205; Sir Thomas Richardson, 209; Sir Thomas Gresham, 210; William Heveningham, Esq. 211; John Tacesphalus, 216; Sir William and Sir Edmund de Thorpe, 217; Lord Berners, 218; Sir Simon Burley, 221; Sir William le Neve, 223, 224; Ralph de Diceto, Walter of Diss, John Skelton, 229; John de Harling, 237; Sir Robert Harling, Sir Thomas Lovell, 238; Thomas Martin, Thomas Paine, 250; Captain John Gibbs, 253; Wyndham family, 259; Sir Constantine Wodehouse, 260; Robert Peck, Sir Ralph de Hingham, 262; Bishop Bonnor, 267; Sir Andrew Fountaine, 275; Dr. Robert Brady, 283; Archbishop Walter, 284; Archbishop Herring, 288; Sir Benjamin Keene, 295; Sir Henry Spelman, 303; Sir Roger le Strange, 308; Admiral Lord Nelson, 309-311; Sir Edward Coke, 325; Sir Thomas Gresham, 329; John de Baconthorpe, ib.; Sir Thomas Erpingham, 339; Miles Corbet, Esq. 341; Bishop Rugge, 343; Sir Oliver Ingham, 345; Richard Porson, 346; Sir John Fastolff, 350; Arthur Wilson, Dr. Soames, Sir William Gooch, 367; Henry Swinden, John Ives, 368.

Architecture, ancient, castles, and castellated mansions, 47, 48.

——— ecclesiastical, round towers, 48; churches of Bexwell, Bychamwell, 49; Norman churches, specimens of, 51.

——— domestic, specimens of, 284, 285.

*Ashwell-Thorpe*, account of Sir Wm. and Sir Edm. de Thorpe, 217; also of Sir John Bourchier, Lord Berners, 218.

*Aslacton*, memoirs of Sir William le Neve, 223, 224.

ATTLEBOROUGH, fortifications, 251; college, church, 252; anecdote of Captain Gibbs, 253.

AYLSHAM, manufactures, 335; church, free-school, inscription, 336.

B

*Babingly*, first Christian church in East Anglia, 300.
Baconthorpe, John de, anecdotes of, 329.
Barrows in Norfolk, 15.
Bateman, Wm. Bishop, anecdotes of, 171, 172.
Beckam old church, remains of, 333.
Bennet's, St., Abbey anecdotes of Bishop Rugge, 343.
Berners, Lord, memoirs and writings of, 218.
*Billingford*, memoirs of Sir Simon Burley, 221.
Binham Priory, 315.
Bixley Hall, seat, 190.
BLAKENEY, monastery, John de Baconthorpe, 329.
Blickling Hall, seat, 336; successive possessors, 337; birth-place of Anne Boleyn, apartments, portraits, library, 338.
BLOFIELD Hundred, 191-197; extent of, 191; parishes in, 193.
Brady, Robert, physician and historian, anecdotes of, 283.
*Brancaster*, Roman station, 306; encampment, malt-house, 307.
Branodunum, Roman station, 306.
*Brockdish*, Church, singular parish records, 222.
——— Hall, seat, 223.
BROTHERCROSS Hundred, 309-311; extent of, parishes in, 309.
Broomholme Priory, 342.
Browne, Edward, physician, anecdotes of, 177.
*Buckenham, Old*, 253; castle, priory, 254.
BUCKENHAM, NEW, grants, church, 255.
——— St. Andrew's Hall, seat, 254.
BURNHAM WESTGATE, monastery, 309.
*Burnham Thorpe*, birth-place of Lord Nelson, 309.
Burley, Sir Simon, anecdotes of, 221.
Burr, River, its course, 82.
Bustard, Great, largest of British land-fowl, 91.

C

*Caister*, encampment, 348; castle, 349, 350; account of Sir John Fastolff, a native, 350.
Canals, 84, 85.
*Carbrooke*, commandry of Knights Templars, church, 270.
CASTLES: Norwich, 116-127; Castle-Acre, 48, 300; Castle-Rising, 48, 301; Caister, 349, 350; Yarmouth, 352.
*Castle-Acre*, castle, priory, 300; parish church, 301.
CASTLE-RISING, castle, corporation, representation, alms-house, church, 301-305.
*Castor*, the Venta Icenorum of the Romans, 186; Roman antiquities, at, ib. encampment, 186-189; church, 190.
CHAPELS described: at Lynn, the Lady's and St. Nicholas, 294; Houghton le Dale, 320.
CHURCHES described: Bexwell, Bychamwell, 49; Thwaite, 50; at Norwich, St. Julian's, St. Peter Mancroft, 161; St. Lawrence, 162; Gillingham, 202; Loddon, 205; Stratton, 215; Harleston, 224; Diss, 228; East Harling, 238; Thetford, 244; Attleborough, 252; Wymondham, 258; East Dereham, 265; Carbrooke, 270; Northwold, 280; Walpole, 288; Lynn, 293; Castle Rising, 303; Binham, 315; Fakenham, 321; Sall, 327; Gunton, Thorpe-Market, 334; Aylsham, 336; Yarmouth, 360.
CLACKCLOSE Hundred, 282-286; extent of, parishes in, 282.
Clarke, Samuel, divine, account of, 178, 179.
CLAVERING Hundred, 199-203; extent of, 199; parishes in, 200.
*Cley*, imprisonment of James, Prince of Scotland, 330.
Clergy, benefit of the, observations on, 192, 193.
Coke, Sir Edward, lawyer, account of, 325.
*Colney*, Church, inscription, 209.
——— Hall, seat, 210.
*Congham*, account of Sir Henry Spelman, 303.
Corbet, Miles, regicide, account of, 341.
Cosin, John, Bishop, anecdotes of, 184.
Costessey Hall, seat, pictures, chapel, 263.

*Creake, South*, encampment, 311.
Creake Abbey, 311.
CROMER, 331; bay, church, light-house, 332.
Crow, hooded or Royston, natural history of, 92.
*Croxton*, Church, singular ancient font, 279.
Cunningham, William, physician, anecdotes of, 180.

## D

*Denver*, Church, Dr. Brady, a native, 283.
DEPEWADE Hundred, 212-219; extent of, 212; parishes in, 213.
DEREHAM EAST, origin, nunnery, 264; abbey, church, monument, 265; old chest, font, and expence of its erection, 266. Bishop Bonnor, rector, 267; buildings, 268.
*Dereham West*, Abbey, Bishop Walter, a native, 284.
DISS Hundred, 227-233; extent of, 227; parishes in, 228.
DISS, situation, church, 228; anecdote of Robert Fitzwalter, charity school, eminent natives, 229.
DOWNHAM MARKET, 282; market, privileges, priory, 283.

## E

EARSHAM Hundred, 219-227; extent of, 219; parishes in, 220.
*Earsham*, once a considerable town, church, encampment, ancient park, 220.
——— Hall, seat, 221.
East-Hall, ancient seat, 235.
*Elmham*, anciently a city, and see, castle, park, 324.
Elmham Hall, seat, 325.
Elmham, Bishops of, 19-22.
ENCAMPMENTS, in Norfolk, 13, 14; at Castor, 186-189; at Tasburgh, 214; at Earsham, 220; at Thetford, 242; at Weeting, 281; at Brancaster, 307; at Wareham, 319; at Caister, 348.
Enclosures, where made, acres enclosed, &c. 101-103.
ERPINGHAM, NORTH, Hundred, 331-334; extent of, parishes in, 331.
ERPINGHAM, SOUTH, Hundred, 334-339; extent of, 334; parishes in, 335.
*Erpingham, South*, anecdotes of Sir Thomas Erpingham, 339.
Erpingham, Sir Thomas, Anecdotes of, 159, 339.
EYNSFORD Hundred, 326-328; extent of, parishes in, 326.

## F

FAKENHAM, Church, 321; font, 322.
Fastolff, Sir John, Warrior, memoirs of, 350.
Felbrigg, seat, library, church, monument, 333.
*Fincham*, font, ancient mansion, 284.
Fish, varieties of, 93.
FLEGG, WEST, Hundred, 347, 348; extent of, parishes in, 347.
FLEGG, EAST, Hundred, 348-368; extent of, parishes in, 348.
Flints, chief materials in ancient buildings, 51, 52.
Flitcham Priory, extraordinary fate of the proprietors, 304.
Fonts, curious, at East Dereham, 266; at Croxton, 279; at Fincham, 284; at Walsoken, 288; at Castle Rising, 303; at Walsingham, 314; at Fakenham, 322; at Aylsham, 336.
FOREHOE Hundred, 255-263; extent of, parishes in, 256.
*Forncet*, Knighten Court described, 216.
FOULSHAM, destroyed by fire, rebuilt, 326, 327.
Fountaine, Sir Andrew, anecdotes of, 275.
FREEBRIDGE LYNN, Hundred, 289-305; extent of, 289; parishes in, 290.
FREEBRIDGE MARSHLAND, Hundred, 286-289; extent of, 286; parishes in, 287.

## G

GALLOW Hundred, 321-324; extent of, parishes in, 321.
Gawdy-Hall, seat, stained glass, 226.
*Geldestone*, 202.
——— Hall, seat, ib.
Geese and Turkies, abundance of, 89.

Gibbs, Captain John, anecdotes of, 253.
*Gillingham*, Church, 202.
——— Hall, seat, ib.
Glass, stained, in Loddon Church, 205; in Gawdy Hall, 226.
Gooch, Sir William, general, anecdotes of, 367.
GREENHOE SOUTH, Hundred, 271-278; extent of, parishes in, 278.
GREENHOE NORTH, Hundred, 311-320; extent of, parishes in, 312.
Gresham, Sir Thomas, account of, 210-329.
GRIMSHOE Hundred, 278-282; extent of, 278; and parishes in, 279.
GUILTCROSS Hundred, 233-240; extent of, 233; and parishes, 234.
Gunton Hall, seat, 333; church, 334.

## H

Hadescoe, church, preceptory, bridge, 201.
Hanworth, seat, 334.
HAPPING, Hundred, 344-347; extent of, 344; parishes in, 345.
HARLESTON, anecdotes of Sir John Herolveston, church, sculpture, tower, tomb, 225, 226.
HARLING, EAST, or MARKET, ancient possessors, anecdotes of John de Harling, 237; Sir Robert Harling, and Sir Thomas Lovell, church, chapel, 238; manufactures, 239.
HENSTEAD Hundred, 184-191; extent of, 184; parishes in, 185.
Herring, Thomas, Archbishop, account of, 289.
Herring-fishery at Yarmouth, mode and extent of, 362.
Heveningham, William, and family, anecdotes of, 211.
HINGHAM, church, chapel, monument, 261; anecdotes of Robert Peck, rector, and Sir Ralph de Hingham, Judge, 262.
Hillington Park, seat, 305.
Hobart, Sir James, and family, account of, tomb, 205.
Holkham House, seat, 315; architecture, 316; apartments, statues, 317; pictures, park, 318.
HOLT Hundred, 328-330; extent of, parishes in, 328.
HOLT, 328; buildings, freeschool, account of Sir Thomas Gresham a native, 329.
Houghton Hall, seat, magnificent apartments, pictures, 322.
Houghton le Dale, chapel, 320.
*Horsford*, castle, church, 340.
*Horsham*, priory, 340; hospital, cross, 341.
HUMBLEYARD Hundred, 207-212; extent of, 207; parishes in, 208.
*Hunstanton*, cliff, tower, chapel, lighthouse, 307.
——— Hall, seat, account of Sir Roger le Strange, 308.

## I

Iceni, original inhabitants of this county, 2.
Iciani, Roman station, 280.
*Ickburgh*, Roman station, 279; Roman mile stone, urns, and sepulchral hearth, 280.
*Ingham*, church, monuments, anecdotes of Sir Oliver Ingham, college, 345, 346.
INSCRIPTIONS: at Norwich, 155; in Loddon church, 205; in Mulbarton church, 208; in Colney church, 209; in Ketteringham church, 211; at Attleborough, 253; in East Dereham church, 265; at Foulsham, 327; at Sall, ib. at Aylsham, 336; at Ingham, 345.
*Intwood*, manor, 210.
——— Hall, seat, curious specimen of building, 210.
Ives, John, antiquary, account of, 365.
Jews, a boy crucified by, 196.

## K

Kaye, John, physician, anecdotes of, 175-177.
*Kenninghall*, anciently a royal palace, 234; manorial seat, church, 235.
*Keteringham*, 210; church, monuments, 211; account of the Heveningham family, 211, 212.
——— Hall, seat, 212.
Kett's Castle, 197.
Kimberly Hall, seat, 260; park, portrait of Vandyck, 261.
King, Edward, antiquary, memoirs of, 182; his writings, 183.

Knights Templars, commandry of, at Carbrooke, 270; hospital of, at Horsham, 341.

L

Langley Abbey, foundation and establishment of, 206.
——— Hall, seat, 206
LAUNDITCH Hundred, 324-326; extent of, parishes in, 324.
Legge, Thomas, anecdotes of, 181.
Leonard, St., priory, chapel, 196.
LODDON Hundred, 203-207; extent of, parishes in, 204.
LODDON, situation of, 204; manor, account of Sir James Hobart and family, church, 205.
*Lopham, South*, church, 235; singular productions, 236.
Lovell, Sir Thomas, anecdotes of, 238.
LYNN-REGIS, ancient history of, numerous charters, 290; silver cup, gift of K. John, 291; corporate government, parliamentary representation, extent of the town, 292; church, Charnel Hall, now a grammar school, 293; Grey Friars' steeple, the lady's chapel, St. Nicholas chapel, 294; monument of Sir Benjamin Keene, a native, St. James' Chapel exchange, market-place, cross, 295; theatre, guildhall, pictures, improvements in paving, &c. 296.
Lynn Harbour, origin, progressive rise, drainage, channel, imports and exports, 297-299.

M

Mackerel fishery, 93.
Martin, Thomas, antiquary, account of, 250.
Melton Constable, seat, 350.
*Mendham*, priory, 226.
Merton Park, seat, 271.
METHWOLD, priory, 279.
*Middleton*, castle, 305.
Milcham, birth place of Sir Edward Coke, 325.
MITFORD Hundred, 263-268 extent of, 263; parishes in, 264.
Monasteries, &c. remarks on, 40-42: name, order, date of foundation, grantees, and situation of 43-47; at Thetford, 246; at Burnham Westgate, 309.
MONUMENTS and TOMBS, observations on, 53; of Sir James Hobart and family, 205; Sir Edwin Rich, 208; William Heveningham, Esq. 211; Judge Reeve, Sir Roger de Bourne, 215; Sir Edmund de Thorpe, 217; Sir Thomas Gawdy, 226; Sir John Holland, 256: William Cowper, Esq. 265; Dr. John Botewright, 272; Dr. Robert Burhill, 281; Sir Benj. Keene, 295; Sir Edward Coke, 326; Robert Collis, 327; Sir Simon de Felbrigg, 333; Miles Corbet, Esq. 341; Sir William Paston, 342; Sir Oliver Ingham, Roger de Boys, 345.
Mousehold Heath, 195, 196.
Mulbarton, manor, privilege, church, monument, 208; Sir Thomas Richardson, a native, 209.

N

Nar, river, its course, 83.
*Narburgh*, 273
Narford, Roman bricks and relics found, 274.
——— Hall, seat, pictures, 274; Sir Andrew Fountaine, anecdotes of, 275.
Natural history and productions, 87, 93.
Nelson, Horatio Lord, memoirs of, 309-311.
Nene, river, boundary of the county, 83.
Neve, Sir William Le, antiquary and herald, memoirs of, 223, 224.
NORFOLK, General description, history, topography, and local character of, 1 to 368; historical events, 1-13; ancient inhabitants, Roman history, 2; Roman stations, 3; Saxon history, 4; Danish invasions, 7-9; insurrections, 10, 11; encampments, Roman roads, &c. 13-15; ecclesiastical history, 15; Bishops of North Elmham, 17, 18, Elmham; 19-22; Norwich, 22-35; Extent, jurisdiction, &c. of the Diocese, 37-40; Abbies, priories, monasteries, and religious houses, 40-47; architecture, military, 47, 48; ecclesiastical, 48-52; churches, ib. civil, political, and honorial history, 53-73; government, ancient, 53, modern, 54; admiralty, 55; courts, 56, 57; parliamentary representation, 57, 58; dukes, earls, &c.

&c. 58-64; property, ancient and present state of, 64-70; seats of nobility, &c. 70, 73; geographical description, divisions, &c. 73-75; climate, 75, 76; surface, general appearance, soil, 76-78; woods and plantations, 78, 79; coasts, 79, 80; rivers, 81-83; canals, 84, 85; roads, 85-87; natural history---horses, cows, 87; sheep, 88; turkeys, geese, 89; rabbits, game, 90; bustard, owl, 91; hooded crow, 92; fish, 93; minerals, fossils, 93, 94; agriculture, improvements in, 95, 96, 98; implements of, 99, 100; enclosures, 101-103; corn, cattle, &c. exported, 104-106; trade, manufactures, commerce, 106-108; parochial rates, state of the poor, 108-110; population of the hundreds and towns, 111, 112.

North Elmham, Bishops of, 17, 18; *Northwold*, church, shrine, 280; tablet, 281.

NORWICH, City; situation, extent, and shape of, 113; churches and bridges in, ib; Historical events; origin of the city, and its name, 114, 115; Saxon coins, 115; CASTLE: its situation, 116; erection, 117; destroyed by the Danes, 118; rebuilt by Canute, 119; successive possessors, 119, 120; architectural description, 121; keep, 122, 123; walls, bridge, 124; keep-tower, 125; ancient and present state contrasted, 126, 127; castle precinct, 127; Civil history of the town and city: original inhabitants, 128; early respectability, 129; comparative size and population, 130; Bishop's See removed hither, inhabitants first called citizens, ib. walls erected, devastation of the plague, town incorporated, 131; settlement of the Flemings and Dutch, charters, present government, 131, 132; extent, parliamentary representation, 133, population, 134-136; manufactures, woollen cloth, rise and progress of, 137, 138; stuffs, 138-140; bombazines, 141: crapes, 142; importance and extent of trade, 142-146; Cathedral: its origin, successive improvements, delapidations and repairs, 147-149; plan, dimensions, 150; architecture, 150-152; west front, 151; tower, spire, 152; interior, 153; tombs, 153, 154; inscriptions, 155; bishop's palace, 155, 156; episcopal chapel, 156; priory, 157; charnel house, St. Ethelbert's gate, 158; Erpingham gate, 159; religious houses: White Friars, St. Mary's College, St. Leonard's Priory, Black Friars, 160; churches, list of, 160, 161; St. Julian's, St. Peter Mancroft, 161; St. Lawrence, 162; Charitable institutions; grammar school, 162; Hospitals---boys, girls, old men's, 163; Doughty's, Norfolk and Norwich, 164, Bethlehem, 165; Guild-hall, 165; St. Andrew's hall, 166-168; Dungeon, Duke of Norfolk's palace, 169; Surrey-house, Fastolff's palace, society of artists, 170; eminent natives: Bishop Bateman, 171; Abp. Parker, 172-174; Dr. Kaye, 175, 177; Dr. Browne, 177; Dr. Clarke, 178, 179; Dr. Cunningham, 180; Dr. Legge, Bp. Cosin, 181; Edward King, antiquary, 182-184.

NORWICH, history and jurisdiction of the diocese of, 15-40.

——— Bishops of, chronological account of the, 22-35.

——— Castle, situation, history and description of, 116-127.

——— Cathedral, its origin, successive improvements, delapidations and repairs, 147-149; plan, dimensions, 150; architecture, 150-153; West-Front, 151-152; tower, 152; interior, 153; tombs, 153, 154; inscriptions, 155; bishop's palace, 155, 156; episcopal chapel, 156; priory, 157; charnel house, 158.

Nunnery at Thetford, 245; at East Dereham, 264.

O

*Osmuldeston*, remarkable house and wood carving, 230, 231.

Ouse, Great, River, course and periodical swell of, 81.

——— Little, River, course of, ib.

Owl, short-eared, peculiarities of, 91, 92.

*Oxburgh*, church, 275; chapel screen, 276.

Oxburgh Hall, seat, grant for building manor house. 276; architectural description, 277; pictures, 278.

Paine,

P

Paine, Thomas, observations on the writings of, 250.
Parker, Matthew, Archbishop of Canterbury, anecdotes of, 172-174.
Peck, Robert, divine, anecdotes of, 262.
PICTURES: in St. Andrew's Hall Norwich, 168; at Costessey Hall, 263; at Narford Hall, 274; at Oxburgh Hall, 278; in Guildhall, Lynn, 296; at Hpikham House, 318; at Houghton Hall, at Rainham Hall, 323.
PORTRAITS: Queen Anne, Prince George of Denmark, 168; Vandyck, 261; Queen Mary, 263; Lady Elizabeth Butler, Lady Ann Hamilton, Dobson, 274; Mary Queen of Scots, Judge Lyttleton, Earl and Countess of Arundel, Secretary Cromwell, Sir Thomas Gresham, Duke of Suffolk, Earl of Surry, Sir Anthony Denny, K. Edward IV. Henry VII. 278; Sir Robert Walpole, Sir Thomas White, Sir Benjamin Keene, 296; Mary de Medicis, 324; K. George II. and III., Judge Hobart, 358.
PRIORIES at Norwich, 157-160; St. Leonard's, 196; Way-bridge, 198; at Aldby, 200; Mendham, 226; Thetford, 245; Old Buckenham, 254; Slevesholm, 279; Bromehill, 281; at Downham, 283; Winwalve, 285; at Castle-Acre, 300; Flitcham, 304; Binham, 315; at Horsham, 340; at Rackheath, 341; Broomholme, 342.
Poor, state of the, 108; parliamentary returns respecting, 109, 110.
Population of the hundreds or towns, 111, 112.
Porson, Richard, memoirs of, 346.

Q

*Quiddenham*, church, monument, 236.
Quiddenham Hall, seat, 237.

R

*Rackheath*, priory, seat, 341.
Rainham Hall, seat, paintings, 322.
*Raveningham*, college, 203.
——— Hall, seat, 202.
*Reedham*, 199.
REEPHAM, charter, church, image, 327.
Rich, Sir Edwin, monument of, 208.
Richardson, Sir Thomas, some account of, 209.
RIVERS: Great Ouse, Little Ouse, 81; Waveney, Burr, Wensum, Yare, 82; Nar, Nene, 83.
ROMAN STATIONS, ROADS, and AVTIQUITIES in Norfolk, 3-14; at Castor, 185-190; at Tasburgh, 214; at Stratton, 215; at Ickburgh, 279, 280; at Walpole, 288; at Brancaster, 306.
*Rancton, South*, ancient Saxon church, 285.
*Rushford*, college at, 239.
*Ruston*, Richard Porson, a native, 346.

S

*Sall*, church, inscription, 327.
Scole Inn, remarkable house at Osmuldeston, 230.
Seats, with the names of the possessors, 70-73.
SECHEY, 304.
Shadwell Lodge, seat, 240.
Sheep, Norfolk, peculiarities and number of, 88.
*Shottisham*, birth-place of Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, 190.
——— Hall, seat, 191.
SHROPHAM Hundred, 241-255; parishes in, 241.
Skelton, John, poet and divine, anecdotes of, 229.
SMITHDON Hundred, 305-309; extent of, 305; parishes in, 306.
Snarehill Lodge, seat, battle at, between K. Edmund and the Danes, 240.
*Snettisham*, 308.
Soames, Thomas, divine, account of, 367.
Spelman, Sir Henry, lawyer, account of, 303.
*Sprowston*, monument, anecdotes of Miles Corbet Esq. 341.
*Stiffkey*, 318.
——— Hall, seat, 319.
Strange, Sir Roger le, politician, memoirs of, 308.
*Stratton*, Roman road, antiquities, urns, hearth, 214, 215; church, 215.
*Strumpshaw*, remarkable windmill at, 193.
SWAFFHAM, church, monuments, 272; cross, race-ground, 273.
Swinden, Henry, antiquary, account of, 363.

Taceosphalus,

T

Tacesphalus, John, Carmelite prior, anecdotes of, 216.
*Tacolneston*, John Tacesphalus, a native, 216.
———— Hall, seat, ib.
*Tasburgh*, 213; coins, encampment, church, round tower, 214.
TAVERHAM Hundred, 339-341; extent of, 339; parishes in, 340.
*Terrington*, 289.
THETFORD, 241; fortifications, encampment, 242; ancient history, 243; buildings, churches, 244; nunnery, priory, 245; friary, monastery, Domus Dei, 246; grammar-school, 247; corporation, charters, 248; guildhall, fossils, 249; Thomas Martin, Thomas Paine, natives, 250.
*Thorpe*, near Norwich; peculiar grant of, 194, 195; situation, 197.
Thorpe, Ashwell. See Ashwell Thorpe.
*Thorpe-Market*, church, monuments, 334.
Thorpe, Sir William, and Sir Edmund de, account of, 217.
Thwaite, church, 50.
*Tilney*, common, stone coffin, 287.
Trade and Manufactures, 106-108.
Turnips, growth of, 98.

TUNSTEAD Hundred, 341-344; extent of, 341; parishes in, 342.
Turkies and Geese, abundant in this county, 89.

V

Venta-Icenorum, Roman Station, 186.

W

*Walpole*, Roman antiquities, church, 288.
WALSHAM Hundred, 197-199; extent of, 197; parishes in, 198.
WALSHAM, NORTH, church, monument, market-cross, 342.
*Walsingham, Old*, priory, image of the Lady of Walsingham, wishing wells, seat, pleasure grounds, church, font, 312-314.
WALSINGHAM, NEW, plantations, 312.
Walter, Hubert, Archbishop, anecdotes of, 284.
*Wareham*, seat, encampment, 319.
WATTON, fairs, market, church, 269.
*Walsoken*, church, font, Archbishop Herring a native, 288.
Waveney, river, its course, 82.
Way-bridge, priory, 193.
WAYLAND Hundred, 268-271; extent of, 268; parishes in, 269.
Wayland, wood, scene of the story of the Children in the Wood, 269.
*Weeting*, Bromehill priory, castle, encampment, 281; Grime's graves, a barrow, 282.
WELLS, sea-port, 320.
Wensum, river, course of, 82.
*Wereham*, priory, mansion, prison, 285.
Wilson, Arthur, writer, account of, 367.
*Winfarthing*, peculiar privileges, 231; the "Good Sword of Winfarthing," a curious relique, 232.
*Winterton*, 347; light-house, 348.
Winwal House, seat, specimen of domestic architecture, 285.
Winwalve, priory, 285.
Wolterton Hall, seat, 338.
*Worstead*, formerly a town, 344.
———— Hall, seat, ib.
WYMONDHAM, 256; abbey, 257; parish church, tombs, inscription, 258; manufactures, 259; anecdotes of Wyndham family, ib. natives, Robert and William Kett, 260.

Y

Yare, river, course of, 82.
YARMOUTH, GREAT, progressive importance of, 351; castle, 352; mart for herrings, 353; corporation, singular mode of electing the mayor, 354; representation, naval importance, 355; harbour, 356, 357; peculiar danger of the coast, 358; destructive storm, 359; situation and dimensions of the town, population, church, 360; hospitals, schools, town-hall, quay, baths, theatre, 361; herring fishery, 362-364; Kett's rebellion, 365; curious marine plants produced on this coast, 366; eminent natives, 367, 368.

END OF NORFOLK.

THE

# BEAUTIES

OF

# England and Wales.

## MONMOUTHSHIRE.

THE county of Monmouth, in point of fertility, picturesque scenery, and historic remains, is the most interesting district, in proportion to its size, of any in the kingdom. During the British dynasty, the country, which, anterior to its incorporation with England, had been comprehended under the name of Wales, was divided into three sovereignties, and the people were distinguished by three appellations: the *Ordovices, Dimetæ,* and *Silures.* At the time of the Roman invasion Monmouthshire formed part of the Silurian territory, which included also the counties of Glamorgan, Brecknock, Radnor, and Hereford, with those parts of Glocestershire, Worcestershire, and Caermarthenshire, which are situated between the rivers Severn, Teme, and Towy. The Romans having conquered that part of the island which they denominated *Britannia prima,* next turned their attention to the western part, and carried their arms against the *Silures.* Whence the inhabitants of this region received their name has been a controverted question among adepts in etymology. Of their determined courage and military skill no doubt has been formed, because that has been established by the testimony of their enemies. When *Ostorius Scapula,* the Roman General, had succeeded, in the reign of the Emperor Claudius, to the chief command in Britain, after leaving garrisons in the

chain of forts which his predecessor, Aulus Plautius, had established upon the Rivers Avon and Severn, he crossed the latter with his army, and landed, according to some authors, at a place called *Aust-ferry*, but with more probability, according to others, at Caldecot-pill. Ostorius had reckoned upon an easy conquest of a people whose numbers he supposed small, and whose means of resistance he thought probably few. But he experienced unexpected difficulties at every step. The country he found intersected by numerous and rapid rivers, broken by mountains and precipices, covered with woods and forests, abounding with ambush and defiles; and the passes defended by a brave, warlike, desperate people, headed by a chieftain who might have been equalled, but never was surpassed in skill or bravery. When Ostorius perceived the numbers, the resolute appearance of the western Britons, and the formidable positions taken by *Caractacus* in all his movements, his judgment was staggered, and his courage dismayed; and had it not been for the imperious demand of his soldiers, unaccustomed to submission, he would probably have abandoned the object of conquest, previous to the decisive battle of Caer Caradoc. Though the loss of their leader caused confusion among the discomfited Britons, and for a short interval a suspension of hostilities, yet their spirit was unsubdued, the flame of independence was not quenched, and the fire of patriotism was roused again by the vaunting menace of the haughty Roman, "That the *Silurian* name should be exterminated from the earth, as the *Sigambrian* had previously been from the states of Gallia, by the Roman arms." Hostilities again commenced with renovated violence on the part of the Silurians, who, by repeated attacks, and the depredatory and desultory warfare, which the nature, and their knowledge of the country, enabled them to maintain, so annoyed and harassed the Romans, as to keep them in perpetual alarm, and gradually diminished both their spirit and their power. The unparalleled resistance made by the Britons abated the ardor of the Roman troops, and their leader fell a victim to the fatigue, anxiety, and chagrin which he had

had suffered by the reiterated obstacles opposed to him by the Silurian arms. In the reign of Vespasian the conquest of Siluria was again attempted by the Romans, under Julius Frontinus, whose courage and talents proved successful against the overpowered Britons, and their country was eventually subdued. Agricola, who succeeded Frontinus in the government, finding this part of the country in subjection to the Roman yoke, proceeded against the Ordovices, and having subjugated, or rather, as Tacitus observes, exterminated them, took possession of their territory, and united the two countries into one jurisdiction, under the denomination of *Britannia secunda**. The Romans occupied the country of the Silures, as a conquered province, from the time of their first establishment, in the reign of the Emperor Vespasian, till their final departure from Britain, in the year 408, including a period of nearly 330 years.

Though the people had from necessity submitted, and declined a contest which they possessed not the power to continue, yet it was evidently a forced submission. Their physical strength had been overcome, their means had been exhausted by protracted warfare, and their hopes in the fruitless struggle almost lost; still the germ of independence remained alive, the spark of freedom yet existed, though latent in the smothering ashes. To secure the conquest they had so dearly bought, the invaders were obliged to form and garrison a concatenated line of fortified posts. Besides numerous *campa-æstiva*, for the exercise and lodgment of the Roman troops in summer, no less than five principal STATIONS were erected in that portion of Siluria, included within the present county of Monmouth. The three stations of *Venta-Silurum*, Caerwent; *Isca-Silurum*, Caerleon; and *Gobannium*, Abergavenny, are acknowledged to be Roman by the concurrent testimony of antiquarian commentators. Differences have arisen respecting the sites of two other stations; *Burrium* and *Blestium*, mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus: but they appear, according



* See Beauties, Vol. VI. p. 401.

cording to Horsley, to be fixed with more evidence of probability, if not with certainty, at Usk and Monmouth, than, as they have been by some antiquaries, at Oldcastle and Caerphilly. The reasons for coinciding with the author of the Britannia Romana will be given, when the places in question are hereafter more particularly described.

Much greater difficulty occurs in tracing the ROMAN ROADS, than in ascertaining the stations. This difficulty has arisen from a combination of causes: from the marshy situation of the country through which some of them must have passed; from the frequent inundations which probably have washed away many traces; from the cultivated state of the country in which the stations are situated, between which these roads formed communications; and from the custom of pitching or paving the pathways, and planting the fences upon high embankments, formed or supported by large stones. Most of the great roads forming a connection between the southern part of Britannia-Secunda, and the Roman provinces east of the Severn, must have passed through Monmouthshire. But so little attention has been hitherto paid to this subject, or so great have been the obstacles to discovery, that the information obtained is neither ample nor satisfactory.

*The Julia Strata*, according to general acknowledgment, led from *Aqua Solis*, Bath, to *Menevia*, St. David's, in a direction through the counties of Monmouth, Glamorgan, Caermarthen, and Pembroke: but in attempting to trace its course through this county, much difficulty arises, from the variety of opinions respecting the route it took towards the Severn, and from what point the embarkation of Roman troops was at first, or afterwards, usually made. This has been diversely fixed by different writers at Amesbury, Oldbury, Aust, New-passage, Henbury, and *Portishead*. The landing on the opposite shore has been consequently as variously placed at Tydenham, Beachley, Chepstow, Black-rock, Portscwit, and Sudbrooke. Hence the commencement and direction of this road have both been rendered doubtful.

ful. Admitting Portishead to be the station *Trajectus* of the Itinerary, and that it was the general place of Roman embarkation, the assignable place for landing will appear unquestionably to be at Sudbrooke, in this county, where are still the vestiges of a large Roman encampment. "Notwithstanding, however, all my researches, I could not discover any vestiges of a causeway between Caldecot-pill and Caerwent, till I passed the brook, Nedern, in the vicinity of Caerwent. Between the brook and the eastern gate I perceived vestiges of an ancient paved causeway, which, within the memory of some of the inhabitants, was more perfect*." From Caerwent the road is visible beyond the Nedern, in the direction of Penhow to Caerleon, whence a branch led to Usk. Horsley, who pursued it at the beginning of the last century, described it as then being prominent and remarkable. The part which he discovered to the east of Caerwent, Mr. Leman very justly concludes must have formed a portion of the road called *Akeman-street*, which went from Caerleon to *Corinium*, Cirencester. The course of the Julia Strata, west of Caerleon, is described in the twelfth iter of Antoninus, as passing into Glamorganshire, through the station *Bovium*, to *Nidus*, or Neath. Few traces are discoverable between Caerleon and Newport, but Mr. Evans, vicar of St. Woolos, from various Roman remains dug up in different places, is induced to think it proceeded from the west gate of Caerleon, along the right bank of the Usk, leaving Malpas church on the west, and Crinda-house on the east, and passed to the site of St. Woolos church, on the hill near Newport, where are encampments, and a tumulus, now destroyed, which Mr. Harris thought was an *arx speculatoria*†. In its progress south westward the line was doubtful; it extended probably between the old and the new road to Caerdiff, from the

 direction

* Coxe's Historical Tour in Monmouthshire, Introduction, p. 17.

† The name *Caerau*, fortifications, still preserves the Roman designation. —Archaeologia, Vol. II. p. 7.

direction of the fortified points, till their junction near St. Melons, whence it proceeded by Pen-y-pil, near the present turnpike road, to the station mentioned by Richard, in his Iter, of *Tibia Amnis;* whether that was situated at the pass of the river Rumney, or three miles further on the Taaf*.

The roads which branched off from the Julia Strata, in this county, are mentioned in the twelfth and fourteenth iters of Antonine, and the eleventh and thirteenth of Richard. One branch led from Isca Silurum to *Burrium*, and dividing into two ramifications, one proceeded to *Gobannium*, and the other to *Blestium*.

"The only road bearing positive marks of Roman origin is that which leads from the left bank of the Wy, up the Kymin, passes by Stanton, in Gloucestershire, and was part of the old way from Monmouth to Gloucester. At this place are many indications of a Roman settlement; the name of Stanton proves the existence of a Roman causeway†."

Another road appears to have passed in a direction south westward from Abergavenny, to Neath, or to some station in Glamorganshire. "I travelled over that part of it which stretches from Penllwyn, north to Bydwellty, and the Sorwy furnace. It forms a straight line, from forty to fifty feet in breadth, between the hedges, which is an uncommon circumstance in this county, where the roads are extremely narrow; in many places I observed vestiges of a causeway, paved with large flag-stones; in some parts there was little more than a pathway in the midst of this broad road, but in others the whole causeway remained entire and

* Richard places Bovium xxviii. M. P. from Caerleon, but records an intermediate post, *Tibia Amnis*, viii. M. P. from the latter station. The name implies it was situated on a *river*, and if the numeral has not been corrupted, its site must be fixed in Monmouthshire, and somewhere upon the banks of the Rumney. "Whether that place, *i. e.* the village of Rumney, took its denomination from the *Romans*, or whether the river gave name to it, from *Rhemny*, to divide, I shall not take upon me at present to determine. Whence the Kentish Romney took its denomination? Somner or Lambard say from the *Romans*."—Archaeologia, Vol. II. p. 8.

† Coxe's Historical Tour in Monmouthshire, Introd. p. * 22.

and swelling, though furrowed with the tracks of horses. These appearances are peculiarly striking about half a mile beyond Bydwellty church, near which are remains of a strong entrenchment. I traced it only four miles; but I am informed by gentlemen who have much frequented these mountains for growse shooting, that it continues north some miles farther, and then turns to the east and north-east over the moors, in a direction to Abergavenny. This road is called by the natives *Sarn-hîr*, or the long paved causeway, a name which sufficiently bespeaks it to be Roman; *Sarn* in Welsh having the same signification as *stane*, or street, in English *."

To enumerate the various remains of the Romans, which have at different times been discovered in this country, would occupy more pages than can be allotted in a work of this kind to one particular subject. They consist of aqueducts, baths, tessellated pavements, columns, statues, bas-relievos, sudatories, hippocausts, altars, votive and sepulchral stones, sarcophagi, urns, medals, coins, fibulæ, &c. &c. The most curious and interesting of these will be described in the account of those places where they have been respectively found.

On the evacuation of the island by the Romans, the Britons were assailed by numerous hordes of Picts and Scots, and, unable to make effectual resistance, were reduced to extreme political misery; and their princes, instead of endeavouring to find their strength in unanimity, like imprudent partners in adversity, sowed the seeds of discord among their subjects, by wrangling with each other. At this period the Saxons were called in as auxiliaries, by Vortigern, an event which marks an epoch of sanguinary detail. A most afflictive scene of warfare ensued between the natives and their insidious allies. Aurelius Ambrosius, the leader of the Britons, attacked the Saxons in every quarter, and the exploits of Uther Pendragon, and the heroic Arthur, are too well known to need a recital here.



* Coxe's Historical Tour, Introd. p. *24.

They have been represented in military prowess as unrivalled, and their fame as surpassing that of the most renowned heroes of Greece and Italy. During this æra Monmouthshire was a conspicuous theatre for the display of heroism and chivalrous hospitality, and Caerleon has been described as equalling Rome in splendour and celebrity. The Britons, in these contests, continually in the issue lost ground, and the Saxons at length, about the time they had established the heptarchy under Egbert, had confined them to that part of the island west of the Severn. At that time *Wales*, the appellation given by the northern invaders to that portion of the country, was divided into three regions, or principalities; *Gwynnedd*, containing the greater part of North Wales; *Powisland*, including part of North Wales, and parts of Shropshire and Worcestershire; and *Deheubarth*, comprizing South Wales, parts of Herefordshire, Glocestershire, and the whole of Monmouthshire. By the fortune of war these were sometimes united under one sovereign, and at others, by the law of gavelkind, divided into several petty sovereignties. In those obscure times it is difficult to trace the history of Monmouthshire, which sometimes formed a separate territory under the name of *Gwent*, and at others was comprehended in *Morgannoc*, which included Glamorganshire, and part of Caermarthenshire. By "the Breviary of Intelligence," it appears that Morgan, the prince of this district, was subject to the controul of Howel, Prince of South Wales, and he also at the same period was tributary to the King of England. Morgannoc then contained seven hundreds, four of which, viz. *Gwaenluc*, *Edeligion*, *Gwent-underwood*, and *Gwent-overwood*, were in this county*. The succession of its petty princes, as recorded in the Welsh chronicles, forms little more than a catalogue of names, accompanied by notices of pedigrees, purporting to be a regal list from Morgan, the son of Arthur, to the extinction of the line in the time of Henry the Second. These petty chieftains were professedly tributary to the Princes

* Myvyrian Archæology of Wales, Vol. II.

Princes of South Wales, or his vicegerent, the Prince of Glamorgan; but the tribute was no longer paid than those demanding it were able to enforce compliance, and the resistance to the demand was often of the most sanguinary kind. In the attempts of the Saxon monarchs to subjugate Wales, the Gwentians, by their extraordinary courage, opposed the most powerful obstacles. Nor does it appear that they ever were completely conquered during the Saxon period*. Powel† observes that Canute entered Gwent in the year 1034, with a powerful army, to enforce submission; on which occasion he defeated Rytherch ap Jestin, Prince of South Wales. The pretended conquests were merely assumptions of arrogance previous to the reign of Edward the Confessor; when Harold penetrated into the country, overcame Gryffidd, Prince of North Wales, placed a prince on the throne of South Wales, forced the inhabitants to swear fealty to the crown of England, and took hostages for securing the payment of the customary tribute. At that time the Saxons appear to have occupied Monmouth, Chepstow, Caerwent, and Caerleon, and Harold is said to have erected a palace at Portscewit.

The respite afforded by the Norman conquest furnished both a pretext and opportunity for the Welsh to re-assert their independence. William the First, however, had recourse to a new species of policy for curbing the rising spirit of resistance to his authority. The Saxon conquests were made with royal troops, and in the sovereign's name, but the wily Norman encouraged his powerful barons to make incursions at their own expence, and with their own retainers, and, as a reward, granted them leave to hold the lands they conquered *in capite* of the crown. This policy was, and only could be temporary. Those grand feudal tenures became petty royalties, the barons became despots in their respective demesnes; entrenched in their fortified castles, they sometimes awed, and at other times resisted the reigning monarch,

* The Saxon Chronicle vaguely states, that all Wales was conquered; but it never appears by any records to have been included in the heptarchy.

† History of Wales, p. 57 & 83.

narch, and arrogated to themselves an independent sovereignty. This accounts for the numerous remains of castles and other fortresses, in addition to the vestiges of British, Roman, and Saxon fortifications, still traceable in this historic county.

These lands, observes Enderbie, being holden *per baroniam*, with full power to administer justice to the tenants, were invested with divers privileges, franchises, and immunities, so that the writs of ordinary justices out of the king's courts were not current among them. But in case of strife between two barons marchers*, concerning their territories or confines, for want of a superior, they had recourse to the king, their supreme lord, and justice was administered to them in the superior courts of the realm. "Such was the wretched state of feudal jurisprudence in Monmouthshire, as well as in the other marches of Wales, till Henry the Eighth abolished the government of lords marchers, divided Wales into twelve shires, and included Monmouthshire among the counties of England †." This happy change, however, from the oppressions of feudal tyranny, to the just and equal administration of the English laws, does not appear to have taken place till long afterwards. "Monmouthshire was considered as a Welsh county till the time of Charles the Second, when it began to be reckoned in England, because the judges kept the assizes here in the Oxford circuit ‡." In the confusion which arose from the mixed mode of administering justice, prior and subsequent to the incorporation of Wales with England, it is difficult to ascertain the exact period when Monmouth might be strictly considered an English county. Probably not till the jurisdiction of the supreme court of lords marches, usually held at Ludlow, in Shropshire, was finally abolished, in the first year of William and Mary, by act of parliament, at the humble suit of all the gentlemen and inhabitants within the principality of Wales.

ENCAMPMENTS

* See a satisfactory account of the origin, jurisdiction, and suppression of these local tyrants, in Evans's "Letters, written during a tour through North Wales," p. 332, &c.

† Coxe's Historical Tour in Monmouthshire, Introd. p. 10.

‡ Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 482.

ENCAMPMENTS AND FORTIFICATIONS.—Remains of numerous *encampments* are still visible in various parts of Monmouthshire, and, according to the portion of information, or particular bias of different writers, these have been described as of British, Roman, Saxon, Danish, or Norman origin. The indefatigable Harris, who had the merit of discovering and describing many of these remains, has, without the smallest hesitation, because a few Roman coins and other antiquities have been found in or near them, assigned the whole to the Romans. But it has repeatedly been observed in this work, that such discoveries afford no decisive proof of attributing their formation to any particular people. Long subsequent to the departure of the Romans from this island, their money was current among the Britons, and during the troubles which ensued, much was secreted, lest it should fall into the hands of the enemy; and the Saxons would naturally carry off, to distant places, whatever spoils and plunder they might find, to their own towns and camps.

It has been stated by some antiquaries, that a square, or parallelogram, was the usual form of a Roman camp; and Mr. Coxe says, that, " Perhaps a square or parallelogramical form, independent of Roman roads and antiquities, is the only *indubitable* mark of Roman origin." Vegetius* observes, in his admirable treatise on military tactics among the Romans, that a camp was most complete, when the breadth was two thirds of its length; yet this is an abstract view; and the rule must submit to circumstances for modification, because the form alone could not constitute its excellence; for it might incidentally be square, triangular, or semicircular, according to the nature of the ground. Were a rectangular form to be adopted as the criterion of Roman camps, not more than *four*, among the multiplicity remaining in Monmouthshire, could be assignable to that people. It does not, however, appear, that the Romans at all times, and in all countries, formed their encampments invariably upon the same plan; for there

* De re militare, Lib. I. cap. 23.

there are many in England, as well as Wales, of circular, elliptical, and of various irregular figures, which evidently proves, that the nature and capability of the site most generally governed the choice of the forms. It must be supposed, that the Romans, during a residence of three centuries, in this country, during which period their government, assuming a military form, were necessarily compelled to keep up a large military establishment, they must have occupied numerous summer camps, as well as fortresses, for the discipline of their troops, the protection of their convoys, and security of their cattle. It is therefore reasonable to suppose, that many of these were primarily British, and afterwards occupied by the Romans; or Roman, and subsequently altered and occupied by Saxons, Danes, &c. Some few, from the depth of the ditches, height of the banks, and other prominent features, appear the works of the Saxons and Danes, and were probably thrown up by them during their predatory excursions into this part of the island. But as neither of those people retained permanent possession of the country, it is highly reasonable to conclude that they are principally assignable to an earlier era, and may be justly ascribed to the Romans and Britons.

The principal and most interesting, as connected with momentous events, will be noticed in the several districts, and their characteristics specified; so that the origin and intention of their formation may be clearly ascertained.

CASTLES.—Among other objects of historic importance, which arrest the attention of the traveller, in this truly interesting county, are the numerous formidable fortresses, and ancient *castles*. The refractory spirit of the Britons obliged their invaders to secure themselves and the property they had unjustly seized, within strong edifices; and the desire of freedom, always predominant in this mountainous district, laid the same necessity upon all its future conquerors. From the want of authentic documents, and the yet undecided character of our ancient architecture, it is not always easy to ascertain the precise era in which such buildings were erected. It is certain that the Romans constructed, in this country, edifices of stone, as well as brick; that the Britons imitated

tated their mode, and therefore Roman, and Roman-British, are with difficulty discriminated from each other. The Saxons, whose power in this part of the island, was never great, probably erected few, if any castles.

The Normans, who, to insure the subjection of the natives, were obliged to repair the old fortresses, and erect new, multiplied this kind of buildings to such an extent, that in a century after the conquest, more than eleven hundred castles were enumerated in England *. From these circumstances, it is at least probable, that most of the present dilapidated fortresses in this county, are of Norman, or subsequent, origin; Caerleon, Usk, and Scenfreth castles, have the most decisive claim to high antiquity.

Ecclesiastical History and Antiquities.—At whatever period Christianity made its appearance in Britain, it is acknowledged, that the Britons, driven by the Pagan Saxons to seek refuge to the west of the Severn, carried their religion and mode of worship with them. Primæval doctrines, and an episcopal form of church government existed among them at an early period; and Monmouthshire appears to have been the seat of Metropolitan power. Caerleon is pre-eminent in the annals of the church. There St. Julius, and St. Aaron, two distinguished prelates, are said to have suffered martyrdom, in the general persecution, during the reign of the Roman emperor Diocletian: to their memory were erected two chapels, which yet perpetuate their names; one at *St. Julians*, and the other at *Penros*. A third chapel, which stood upon an eminence above Caerleon, was erected to the honour of another martyr, St. Alban. In that early period the Metropolitan see of the British churches was fixed

* Pennant observes, that there are 143 castles in Wales. Of this number the sites of twenty-five are still visible in Monmouthshire A regular chain of fortresses had at an early period been formed upon the rivers Severn, Wye, and Monnow, viz. Scenfreth, Grosmont, Monmouth, Trelech, Chepstow, and Caldecot. Another line stretches diagonally, from Grosmont to the banks of the Rumney, viz. White-castle, Tregaer, Usk, Llangyby, Caerleon, and Newport.

fixed at Caerleon; and Dubricius, the celebrated and successful opponent of the Pelagian heresy, was the first archbishop. His successor was St. David, called by Godwin the uncle of King Arthur, and son of Zanctus, a prince of Wales, who removed the see from Caerleon to Menevia, which afterwards took the name of St. David's. The reasons for this removal, and an account of the prelate's sanctity of life and extraordinary actions, are detailed in Bishop Godwin's "De Præsulibus Angliæ," or History of British Prelacy.

After the Saxons had been converted to Christianity by St. Austin, in the papal reign of Gregory, and had, with the Christian institutes, imbibed the errors of the Romish church, a continual polemical contest subsisted between the British and Saxon churches, respecting articles of faith and modes of worship: the former a long time resisted the innovations adopted by the latter. But so incorporated were the Normans, who by subtlety and force obtained possession of this part of the country, with the general mass of the population, that the British church soon became corrupted with the leaven of the Roman schools. And what is invariably the case in every departure from rational principles, that more apparent zeal is evinced in the profession of error, than was previously shewn in the defence of truth; and tenacity transforms itself into insurmountable inveteracy. This accounts for the prevalency of Romish doctrines still manifested in Monmouthshire *, and the comparatively large proportion of Roman Catholics among the inhabitants.

*The Churches* of this county, from their situation, form, and appearance, are singularly picturesque objects. They generally stand isolated in the midst of fields, on the banks of rivers or streams,

* Many vestiges of Romish superstition are visible among the lower classes of people; but none more conspicuously absurd, than the custom which prevails among the indigent inhabitants, both Catholic and Protestant, of *begging bread for the souls of the departed*, on the 1st of November, or All Souls Day. The bread so given is termed *bara ran*, i. e. dole-bread.

streams, and are often embosomed in trees. These exhibit very different styles of architecture. Many of them, particularly in the mountainous parts, are very ancient. A few may be referred to the British and Saxon periods, and several to the early Norman era, which is evident from the circular arch, and the crenellated, billeted, and other mouldings, characteristic of those styles of building: but the larger portion are subsequent to the introduction of the pointed arch. Those assignable to the earliest period appear like barns, are of small dimensions, without collateral ailes, or any distinction of height or breadth between the nave and chancel, and are destitute of a steeple. Those of the second epoch have the chancel narrower and less lofty than the nave, and a small belfry, consisting of two arches, for hanging bells, is fixed over the roof at the western end of the church. The third class consists of a nave, chancel, and tower, which in some instances is placed in the centre, in some at the side, and in others at the western extremity. A few in the eastern part of the county have spires, and do not appear of earlier date than the thirteenth century. Few of the churches in this county have undergone much alteration since the reformation, still exhibiting vestiges of the Catholic worship, such as rood-lofts, niches for saints, auricular recesses, and confessional chairs.

A whimsical custom prevails, of whitewashing the churches in this part of the kingdom, and though in some cases it has not an unpleasing effect, yet in others it takes off from that venerable aspect so impressively assumed by weather-beaten stone. Usually the body of the church is whitened, and occasionally the tower also. In some instances the latter only is subjected to the brush, and in others the battlements and parrapet are whitewashed. At first sight the traveller is induced to condemn a practice which he supposes to originate only in caprice, without considering that what appears superfluous is often necessary; and what at first may be deemed whimsical, on reflection will appear strictly proper. This custom is ingeniously accounted for by Mr. Essex,

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in his Remarks on Ancient Brick and Stone Buildings in England. The Normans, he observes, frequently raised large buildings, with pebbles only, or with pebbles and rag-stones intermixed. As these materials made a very rough surface, the whole was generally covered, both internally and externally, with plaster and whitewash*.

*A List of the Monastic Foundations in Monmouthshire.*

| *Names.* | *Orders.* | *Founded.* | *Granted to* | *Near.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bassaleg | Benedict. Cell | ante 1100 | ——— | Newport |
| Abergavenny | Benedictine P. | temp. Wil. I. or II. | ——— | Abergavenny |
| Caerleon | Cistertian Ab. | ante John | ——— | at Caerleon |
| Goldcliff | Alien P. | temp. Hen. I. | Eton College | Newport |
| Grace Dieu | Cistertian Ab. | A. D. 1226 | Tho. Herbert And W. Bretton | Monmouth |
| St. Kemmies | Priory | ante 1291 | ——— | Monmouth |
| Llanhodenei | Austin Canons | cir. 1108 | Nic. Arnold | Abergavenny |
| Llangkywan | Alien P. | ante 1183 | John Doyley John Scudamore | Grosmont |
| Llantarnam | Cistertian Ab. | ——— | Tho. Carpenter And Will. Savage | Newport |
| Malpas | Cluniac Cell | temp. Hen. I. | Sir Will. Herbert | Caerleon |
| Monmouth | 1. Benedict P. | temp. Hen. I. | Richard Price And Thomas Perry | at Monmouth |
| ——— | 2. Hospital | cir. 1240 | ——— | Ditto |
| Newport | Friers Preachers | ——— | Sir Edw. Carn | at Newport |
| Striguil | Alien P. | temp. Stephen | ——— | Chepstow |
| Tintern | Cistertian Ab. | A. D. 1131 | Earl of Worcester | Ditto |
| Usk | 1. Benedict. Nun | ante 1236 | Roger Williams | at Usk |
| ——— | 2. Hospital | ——— | ——— | Ditto |

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION, DIVISIONS, &c.—The county of Monmouth is situated between the 51st and 52d degrees of north latitude, and the 2d and 4th degrees of west longitude; is one of the frontier counties formerly comprehended in the marches

* Archæologia, Vol. IV. p. 101.

marches, and may justly be considered the connecting link between England and Wales, as it unites the scenery, the language, and the manners of both. It is bounded to the south-east by the Severn Sea, or Bristol Channel; on the west by Glamorganshire and part of Brecknockshire; on the north by part of Brecknock and Herefordshire; and on the east by Glocestershire, from which it is separated by the river Wye. The extent, according to the latest surveys, is thirty-three miles in length, twenty-six in breadth, and about one hundred and ten in circumference; and comprises an area of 550 square miles, or 352,000 acres*. The county is divided into six hundreds: Scenfreth, Abergavenny, Wentloog, Caldecot, Usk, and Raglan. These comprehend seven towns, viz. Monmouth, Caerleon, Chepstow, Usk, Abergavenny, Newport, and Pontypool; including 127 parishes. "The number of houses is about 6,500, and inhabitants 39,000†." Mr. Coxe, however, considers the population higher than this rate: "It may be conjectured, from the number of men between fifteen and sixty, returned in 1798, in the several hundreds, as capable of bearing arms, which amounted to 11,835. If the proportion of the males between fifteen and sixty may be estimated at one-fourth of the whole population, including both sexes, the number of souls in the county of Monmouth will be 47,340, or in round number 48,000‡."

Moumouthshire originally sent 84 men to the national militia, afterwards 240, but that number has lately been considerably augmented. It is in the province of Canterbury, and, except six parishes, in the diocese of Landaff; Welsh Bicknor, Dixon, and



* General View of the Agriculture of the County of Monmouth, by Mr. John Fox. "Monmouthshire is about twenty-nine miles long, by twenty broad, and eighty in circumference."—Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 482.

† By the returns made to parliament under the Population Act, in 1801, the number of inhabited houses is 8,948, uninhabited 417; inhabitants 45,582.

‡ Coxe's Historical Tour in Monmouthshire, Introduction, p. 2.

St. Mary's in Monmouth, being in the diocese of Hereford; and Oldcastle, Llanthony, and Cwmyoy, belong to St. David's.

The county sends three members to the British senate, two knights of the shire, and one burgess for the borough of Monmouth*. Monmouth gives the title of Earl to the Mordaunt family: Abergavenny the same to that of Neville: Caerdiff that of Baron to the Stewart family; and the village of Raglan the same honour to the noble house of Somerset.

The principal *Rivers* are the Severn, Wye, Usk, Rumney, Monnow, or Mynwy, and Ebwy; besides which numerous other smaller rivulets and streams flow through different parts of the county. The course of the SEVERN, which washes with its æstuary the south eastern side of the county, has already been described in this work†. The WYE, so celebrated for its picturesque importance, has its rise on the southern side of Plinlimmon, a lofty mountain in Montgomeryshire, North Wales, and after having formed the discriminating boundary between the counties of Radnor and Brecknock, it passes through Herefordshire, and entering this county at Dixon, forms a line of demarcation between Monmouthshire and Glocestershire, falling into the Severn below Chepstow. The peculiar characteristics of this beautiful river are its sinuous course, the uniformity of its breadth, and the variegated scenery of its banks. So considerable is its serpentine course, that the distance from Ross to Chepstow, which is not seventeen miles in a direct line, is by water thirty-eight. The effects of this sinuosity are numerous, diversified, and striking; and they principally arise from two circumstances, the mazy

* By the inquisition made at the Revolution, in the year 1680, it appears the right of election does not belong to the burgesses of Monmouth alone, but that the burgesses, inhabitants of the boroughs of Newport and Usk, have an equal right to vote in the election of a burgess to serve in parliament.—Oldfield's History of the Original Constitution of Parliaments, p. 323.

† Beauties, Vol. V. p. 509.

mazy course of the river, and the loftiness of its banks, both which are beautifully touched by the poet—

> " Pleas'd Vaga echoes through its winding bounds,
> And rapid Severn hoarse applause resounds."
>
> POPE.

From these two circumstances the views it exhibits are of the most beautiful kind of perspective, because destitute of linear formality*. From the shifting of the fore ground and side screens, the same objects present themselves, suddenly disappear, are lost and recovered with new accompaniments in different points of view: thus the ruins of a castle, the spire of a church, starting into view from some distant wood, hamlets embosomed with trees, aspiring rocks, or impending masses of rock fringed with herbage, are seen sometimes on one side, and sometimes on the other; and thus alternately form the fore or back ground of the picture. The river at one time stretches for a considerable reach in a continuous line, between overhanging rocks, then waves in a curvilinear direction between gentle slopes and fertile meads, and suddenly again becomes concealed in deep abysses beneath the covert shade of dense umbrageous woods. The Wye is navigable for large vessels only to Chepstow bridge, but for barges as far as Hereford.

THE USK has its source in the black mountains of Brecknockshire, and entering this county at Llangrunny, passes in a southerly direction between lofty hills, including a most delicious valley, unrivalled perhaps in beauty by any of the most celebrated spots in Swiss or Italian scenery. The stream sometimes ripples over a pebbly bed, at others rushes over immense ledges of rock, which form fine salmon leaps; and when swelled by mountain torrents, after rains, breaks out into expansive lakes,

 inundating

* See this subject fully investigated, in Gilpin's "Observations on the River Wye."

inundating the adjacent country. This river is navigable for barges up to Tredonnoc bridge *.

The Rumney rises in the lower part of Brecknockshire, and flowing through Duffrin Rumney divides this county from that of Glamorgan, and falls into the Bristol Channel below the village of Rumney.

The Monnow, rising in the black mountains of Brecknockshire, runs in a southerly direction, and after forming the north-eastern boundary of the county, falls into the Wye at the town of Monmouth.

The Ebwy also rises in Brecknockshire, and passing under the Beacon mountain, flows through the wild valley of Ebwy; and joined by a similar stream from the Sorwy valley, falls into the æstuary of the Usk below Newport.

The general aspect of this county is inviting, both from its diversity and fertility. A continual recurrence of hill and dale, wood and water, corn fields and meadows; the sublime of wildly magnificent, and the beauty of mild and cultivated scenery, combine to delight the eye of the beholder at every turn he makes in this uncommonly diversified district. Nor is the air less congenial to health than the face of the country is interesting to view. It is remarkably mild and temperate, except upon the mountainous ridges, where it is of course cold and bleak, and in the hilly districts the air is damper than in the vales, or more level parts of the county. It is observable, that during the winter season the *fogs* shift periodically; so that it is no uncommon thing to see the mountain enveloped with a thick fog during a certain number of days, while the valley enjoys the splendour of a genial sun, and on a sudden the circumstances of both situations will be reversed,

* An inscription against the wall of a forge on its banks, at Trostrey, will afford some indication of its inundating turbulence :—

"Flood, February 16th, 1795."

This inscription, placed at the height the water then rose, is fourteen feet perpendicular above the ground, and twenty-two above the ordinary level of the river.

reversed, and continue so for nearly the same space of time*. Of the salubrity of this county, the longevity among its inhabitants affords a convincing proof. "I have frequently had occasion to observe in Monmouthshire monumental inscriptions of persons who lived to a very advanced age†." One in Penhow church records a person who lived to the protracted age of *one hundred and eleven years*.

The *natural* and *artificial productions* of this county are multifarious and abundant. The woods and coppices are numerous, and contain great quantities of various kinds of timber, particularly beech and oak. Coals are dug in many places, and furnish sufficient fuel not only for home consumption, but a surplus for the English market. Lead and iron ores are found, and the latter in such profusion, as to form one principal branch of manufacture, which employs a number of the inhabitants. Limestone of the finest sort is discoverable in almost every part of the county; and quarries of brescia, for mill-stones, and of other valuable stones for the purposes of building, and almost every necessary article of life, may be had in this prolific county. The variety of the surface in Monmouthshire, its multiplicity of soils, waters, and states of atmosphere, render it productive of a vast diversity of vegetables, and its woods furnish an ample field for botanical investigations; limited, however, by the copiousness of the subjects embraced in the plan of this work, though with reluctance, this topic must be left to those persons who are more particularly engaged in phytological pursuits. It is still proper to remark, that most of the hawthorn growing in this county is the *crimson* blossomed variety.

In an agricultural point of view, Monmouthshire may be divided into three districts. The first, which comprises the southern part of the county, "partly consists of large tracks of moor or

 marshlands,

* Fox's General View of the Agric. p. 10.

† Coxe's Historical Tour, &c. p. 32.

marshlands, containing in some parts of it a great depth of rich unctuous loamy soil, and in others a vast body of black peaty earth. Others again we find partly of a light loamy soil, whereon trees of different kinds grow and thrive very fast. Another part is a mixture of clay and loam, forming fertile meadows, and above them an excellent reddish soil, kindly for corn, turnips, and potatoes. The second division takes in the eastern line of the county, and extends in depth a good way on each side of the river Usk, and affords a treasure to the husbandman and grazier that almost spontaneously supplies the various comforts of life." The soil is of a faint red colour, and such are its natural advantages, and such its fecundity, as to give the whole of this district the appearance of a garden. "The third division comprises the western and most hilly part of the county. The soil upon the hills is in general of a thin peaty nature, covering strata of stone, that lie over mines of coal and iron ore*." The low or marshy lands are principally in a state of meadow and pasture. The upland part experiences a mixed kind of husbandry, between pasture and arable.

The kinds of corn are wheat, barley, and oats; of pulse a few peas and beans are sown; and the usual artificial grasses, as clover, rye-grass, and trefoil, are cultivated. Although much of this county is mountainous, consequently rocky, and numerous wastes and commons remain in a comparatively unproductive state, yet it raises a considerable supply of all the necessaries of life, and much of the surplus of its various commodities tend to answer the demands of Bristol and other markets. Lime forms the principal manure, and the system of summer fallowing is yet too prevalent throughout the arable districts. The land in the valleys and slopes of the hills is finely chequered with woods and pastures, intermingled with cultivated spots. Those parts abutting upon the ridges of the mountains are sterile, affording a scanty subsistence for the vagrant flocks.

*The Cattle* of a country merit the notice of every statistical writer, because they form a prominent feature in the productive usefulness

* Fox's General View, &c.

usefulness of a district; and a knowledge of their comparative merits tends to the most valuable of all improvements; that which increases the portion of human subsistence, or augments the power for performing the labours of husbandry, by means of which that subsistence is produced.

*The Oxen* of Monmouthshire are principally bred in the northern parts of the county, and fed in the southern. They chiefly consist of a large useful kind, of a deep red and brindled colour, moderately short in the leg, and compact in the carcass, evidently a cross between the breeds of the two adjacent districts to the north-east and south-west, the Hereford and Glamorgan, and some are the pure breed of each. They generally grow to a large size, are docile, very useful for agricultural purposes, and when fatted weigh from seven to nine hundred weight, and sell from fifty to sixty pounds a pair. When young they are in great demand by the English graziers, who purchase them at the great cattle fairs, about three years old, and sell them for the labours of the field; or after they have worked for a certain period, are bought in a store state, and then fed for the market.

*The Sheep* of this county are particularly small in general, and partake of the properties so conspicuous in the mountainous breed of South Wales. They are slender in the bone, long in the leg, light in the carcass, the wool of a coarse and rather short staple, the flesh fine in the grain, and of delicate flavour. Many of these characteristic qualities are owing to their migratory mode of feeding, and continual exposure to the vicissitudes of weather. This breed is, however, now principally prevalent in the mountainous parts of the county: in the middle and lower districts are found some of the true Rye-land breed, and numerous crosses have recently been tried with the Cotswold, South-down, and Dorset. The spirit of improvement in this respect has been enkindled, and the experiments made under the direction and support of the provincial agricultural society are highly laudable; and time will soon evince, in opposition to prejudice or fashion,

which kind of sheep are best adapted to the circumstances of this country.

Monmouthshire has little to boast respecting its *Horses*. They consist of a meagre, light, uncompact breed, not well adapted for the business of the road, or the labours of the field. A few useful cart horses are obtained from Herefordshire, good roadsters are purchased from England, and a small number of the latter are bred in the county.

*Mules*, though the pride and glory of Spain, are little thought of in England; and in few instances have they been tried upon any extensive scale, as to their comparative cheapness and utility. In those cases where their ability has been put to the test, their inferiority to horses has been decidedly proved. But then it should be recollected, that the experiments were made, as to their usefulness, not in carrying, but in drawing weights, and in cases, and under circumstances, where no fair comparison could possibly be made. For the carriages usually constructed upon the erroneous principle of *lift* and *draught*, are ill suited to the shape, muscular power, and irritable spirit of this high-bred animal. The mule is mettlesome in his habit, rapid in his movement, and patient of fatigue, and when used as a beast of *burthen* his labours become highly advantageous, particularly in mountainous districts. Numbers of mules, and those the finest in the kingdom, are bred and worked in this county and that of Brecknock. They are a peculiarly fine race, strong in the bone, and of exquisite symmetry, running from fourteen to sixteen hands high, and are so valuable as to sell for thirty and forty pounds each. The breed is kept up to its pristine standard of excellence by the importation of stallion asses from Spain, or the South of France. For this purpose the ass becomes an object of speculation, and obtains a considerable price. Mules are principally used for carrying coals into the mountainous districts, heavy articles from the navigable rivers and canals, iron ore from the mines, and manufactured iron to the respective depots, whence it is sent to the

the different markets. Many are worked between Brecknock and Blaenavon.

The mode of agricultural cultivation in this county is in general respectable, and, circumstances considered, highly productive. What it furnishes towards human subsistence evinces the capability of the district, and the prevailing spirit of the inhabitants promises speedy amelioration. Much of the land is in sheep walk, much in mines and quarries, much underwood and coppice, and much in a state of waste. The land lying in commons is very considerable. That of Greenmore is supposed to contain about 5000 acres, Caldecot about 800, besides those of Devauden, Chepstow, and various others of smaller extent. The disposition for improvement prevails, particularly among the tenantry of those numerous respectable proprietors, whose benevolent character, and active exertions, equally benefit themselves and all around them. There can be little doubt therefore, that better breeds of cattle will be introduced, and a still more productive course of husbandry adopted, so as to advance this at present prolific county to the highest pitch of capable fertility. Much may be expected also from the exertions of the respectable society established for the purpose of directing and encouraging the efforts of agriculturists, and furthering the interests of rural economy. Whatever tends to regulate the application of knowledge serves the cause of science, as order in society is conducive to its happiness and security. The productive state of Monmouthshire arises in some measure from the distribution of lands, as well as the natural fecundity of the soil. "An appeal to the general cultivation of this county seems the soundest reasoning in favour of small farms. They promote plenty, population, and industry, and prevent monopoly, by constantly supplying the markets. I do not mean by this approbation of small farms to withhold praise from some larger ones; they are equally serviceable, if not too large and numerous, in every county. Both have their respective uses, if kept in due proportion *." The size of farms

* Fox's General View of the Agric. p. 23.

farms in Monmouthshire is in general small, the annual rental of few exceeding 200l. and the greater part not 60l. per annum, and some still less.

The division of property is not upon a scale so favourable to cultivation, as the distribution of lands. The estates are in general very large, and consequently the property in few hands. The principal land proprietors are the Duke of Beaufort, Sir Charles Morgan, Sir Robert Salisbury, John Hanbury, Esq; John Hanbury Williams, Esq; —— Lewis, Esq; John Jones, Esq; Richard Lewis, Esq; Messrs. Fettiplace and Blewit. The evils which too frequently arise from the accumulation of landed property are in a great degree prevented by the custom of granting leases for a long term. In most instances the proprietors grant leases for advantageous periods to old or deserving tenants. Twenty-one years is the most usual period. Some estates are, however, let by tenancy at will, and a great many lands are held by copy of court roll, at a fine certain, and which therefore does not operate, as in the case of uncertain and arbitrary fines, to the detriment of agriculture.

Roads. Before the formation of *roads* under the turnpike act, those of Monmouthshire were proverbially bad. "The gentlemen of the county opposing the turnpike act, Valentine Morris, of Piercefield, who was a strenuous promoter of it, was examined at the bar of the House of Commons; being asked, 'What roads are there in Monmouthshire?' he replied 'None.' 'How then do you travel?' 'In ditches*.'" Some specimens still remain to furnish the traveller with an idea of what they must have formerly been. They were simply hollows formed by the action of water between the hills, with large banks and lofty hedges thrown up on each side to prevent trespass. In these alpine gutters, for by no other more appropriate term can they be designated, the centre is invariably the lowest part, and frequent transverse channels run across to prevent the too rapid descent of carriages,

* Coxe's Historical Tour, &c. p. 14.

carriages, or to convey the water to some adjacent ponds. Since the construction of turnpike roads, however, considerable amelioration has taken place in this department; and except what defects arise from the natural inequalities of the surface, the roads from the New-passage to Newport, from Newport to Caerdiff, from the New-passage to Usk, and from Usk to Abergavenny, are as good as most in England: and the method adopted for marking the distances, and directing the traveller, is worthy of imitation in every part of the kingdom. The miles are pointed out by stones, having on the face the word London, above; below the name of the parish, and the distance in Arabic numerals placed between; the right and left corners of the upper part of the stone being taken off, form two other faces; on each is the initial of the place it inclines to, and the distance in numbers. Directing posts are also set up in various places, which are the more necessary, from the sinuous course many of the vicinal roads take, especially among the mountains. Still, however, there is room for much improvement, both in the public, as well as in the parochial roads. Admirable materials are in most places abundant, and an enforcement of the statute duty, aided by the turnpike trusts, would be fully adequate to supply the glaring defects.

Rail Roads. A kind of road, the creation of the inventive and manufacturing spirit of the present age, distinguishes many parts of this county; and as rail roads will be occasionally referred to in the delineation of several places, it will be proper to give a brief description of this useful improvement for the conveyance of ponderous articles. "This road is so called, because it is formed by a kind of frame with iron rails, or bars, laid lengthways, and fastened or cramped by means of cross bars. The ground being excavated about six feet in breadth, and two in depth, is strewed over with broken pieces of stone, and the frame laid down; it is composed of rails, sleepers or cross bars, and under sleepers. The rail is a bar of cast iron, four feet in length, three inches thick, and one and a half broad; its extremities are respectively concave and convex, or in other words are mor-

ticed

ticed and tenanted into each other, and fastened at the ends by two wooden pegs to a cross bar, called the sleeper. This sleeper was originally of iron, but experience having found that iron was liable to snap or bend, it is now made of wood, which is considerably cheaper, and requires less repair. Under each extremity of the sleeper is a square piece of wood, called the under-sleeper, to which it is attached by a peg. The frame being thus laid down and filled with stones, gravel, and earth, the iron rails form a ridge above the surface, over which the wheels of the cars glide by means of iron grooved rims, three inches and a half broad. This is the general structure of the road, when carried in a strait line: at the junction of two roads, and to facilitate the passage of two cars in opposite directions, moveable rails, called turn-rails, are occasionally used, which are fastened with screws, instead of pegs, and may be pushed sideways. The level of the ground is taken with great exactness, and the declivity is in general so gentle as to be almost imperceptible *. The road sometimes conveyed in a straight line, sometimes winding round the sides of precipices, is a picturesque object, and the cars filled with coals or iron, and gliding along occasionally without horses, impress the traveller, who is unaccustomed to such spectacles, with pleasing astonishment. The expence of forming these roads is also very considerable, varying according to the nature of the ground, and the difficulty, or facility of procuring proper materials. It is seldom less than a thousand pounds per mile, and sometimes exceeds that sum. The cars, from the solidity of their structure, and the quantity of iron used in the axle-tree and wheels, when loaded, weigh not less than three tons and a half each: they are drawn by a single horse, and the driver stands on a kind of foot-board behind, and can instantly stop the cars by means of a lever and a drop, which falls between the wheels, and suspends their motion. In places where the

* The perpendicular fall of the ground is commonly no more than an inch in a yard, and scarcely ever more than three inches.

the declivity is more rapid than usual, the horse is taken out, and the car impelled forward by its own weight*."

Such is the description of a rail road in the vicinity of the iron works at Blaenavon, and it may serve, with the exception of a few deviating circumstances, for all the rail or train roads in the kingdom. This road commences on the banks of the canal, at Pontnewyndd, and runs along-side the river Avon to Blaenavon works, an extent of five and a quarter miles, having a rise from the canal of 610 feet.

CANALS. Improvement of internal navigation, by means of canals, was till lately entirely neglected in this county, as it had been in every part of Wales. Long had the valuable mines of lead, copper, iron, coals, and other useful minerals, lain entirely neglected, for want of that spirit of trade, and encouragement necessary for exploring, and usefully applying the wealth contained in the entrails of this mountainous territory. Though late, the inhabitants have at last seen the advantages arising from a conveyance by means of canal navigation. And the period is at length arrived, when an enterprising spirit has carried these artificial rivers among the mountains, and extracted by their aid the riches which long lay hid beneath the surface, and brought to a valuable market quantities of fine timber, adapted for ship building, and other useful purposes, which in many places had been for ages decaying for want of a proper and reasonable conveyance. The gentlemen of this and the adjacent counties, at last awakened to a sense of their real interest, have by a laudable spirit of enterprize followed the example of their neighbours on the east of the Severn.

*The Monmouthshire Canal* began in the year 1792, and finished in 1798, consists of two branches, which unite at Malpas. It commences on the west side of the town of Newport, having a basin connected with the river Usk; then, passing between the town and the river, crosses the Chepstow road, whence by Malpas it pursues its route parallel to the river Avon by Pontypool to Pontnewyndd,

* Coxe's Historical Tour, p. 230.

Pontnewyndd, an extent of nearly eleven miles, with a rise of 12 feet in the first mile, and in the remaining 10 a rise of 435 feet*. Opposite Malpas a branch strikes off parallel to the river Ebwy, in a direction to Crumlin bridge, forming a line of more than eleven miles, from the junction, with a rise of 358 feet; making the total length of both canals twenty-two miles, two chains. This branch is furnished with thirty-two locks, and such is the inequality of their distances, that in the extent of one mile and a half, between Sefn and the point of junction, there are no less than twenty. The average depth of water is about three and a half feet, and the boats navigating it carry from twenty-five to twenty-eight tons, none of less burthen than twenty being allowed to pass the locks†. By virtue of a second act, obtained in the year 1797, the proprietors were authorized to extend the line to the eastward one mile and a half. And by a third, in the year 1802, various further powers were obtained for making collateral train-roads, and raising additional sums of money. Though the internal trade and landed property have been much benefited by the execution of this plan, it has never yet proved a very advantageous speculation to the proprietors. For so late as the year 1802, they had only divided 2l. 12s. 6d. per cent. and at present shares are below par. The concern will be much benefited by the junction of the *Brecknockshire Canal*, when it is completed. An act was obtained for the cutting this canal in the thirty-third year of the present reign‡. It is intended to form a communication between Brecknock and Newport, by way of Abergavenny and Pontypool; forming a junction with the Monmouthshire Canal, eight and a half miles from Newport, and one mile from Pontypool. From this canal it proceeds across the river Avon, where, by a tunnel 120 yards long, it goes under the hill, and passes Mamilad, Llanover, &c.

The

* The number of locks on this branch is forty-two.

† Phillips's General History of Inland Navigation, p. 275.

‡ Idem, p. 491.

The principal commodities conveyed by the Monmouthshire Canal, of which the Brecknock may be considered a branch, are coals, timber, pig, and different sorts of manufactured iron, and various shop goods, furniture, deals, &c. for the consumption and use of the interior. The nature, extent, and importance of the business transacted by means of this canal may be estimated by the statement of its tonnage for one year, commencing September 9, 1798. Coals, 28,091 tons; pig iron, 11,159 tons, 5 cwt.; bar iron, 32 tons, 10 cwt.; H. blooms, 573 tons, 10 cwt.; timber, 288 tons, 6 cwt.; lime, 153 tons, 5 cwt.; sundries, 1,748 tons; ale and porter, 20 tons, 10 cwt.; stones, 12,353 tons, 5 cwt.; castings, 136 tons; bark, 62 tons, 15 cwt.; iron ore, 1,955 tons, 16 cwt.; slate, 81 tons, 10 cwt.; manure, 225 tons, 10 cwt.

Among other improvements to which the county of Monmouth is indebted to the ingenuity and persevering industry of man, the securing the two great levels of Caldecot and Wentloog, by means of DYKES and WALLS, from the incursions of the sea, ought not to pass unnoticed. *Sea walls* have been erected in the hundreds of Wentloog and Caldecot, for a considerable extent, and at a vast expence, to keep off the sea at high tides, and in stormy weather, particularly during the prevalence of such winds as blow from the south-west, from overflowing the spacious marshes in this district, which otherwise would be subject to continual damage by frequent inundations*. Some of these walls are built to the height of twelve or fourteen feet, falling back from the sea by a gradual slope, each row of the stone-facing reclining by a set off, of two inches in every foot, and the stone-work

* The damage done by the great flood, in the year 1606, was immense. Its dreadful devastations were described in a pamphlet entitled, "Lamentable News from Monmouthshire, in Wales. Containing the wonderfull and most fearful accidents of the overflowing of the waters in the said countrye, drowning infinite numbers of cattell of all kinds, as sheep, oxen kine, and horses, with others, together with the losse of many men, women, and children, and subversion of xxvi parishes, in January last." 1606, 4to.

work is flanked by a large embankment of earth. In some other parts, where they are not required to be so high, nor so strong, they are constructed of earth only. This is peculiarly the case in the level of Wentloog. Formerly those of Caldecot were also of earth, but being subject to frequent dilapidation, and consequently incurring the expence of continual reparation, they have recently been constructed of stone. These walls extend from the village of Caldecot, almost the whole way to Goldcliff, and those of Wentloog run 4986 perches, or poles. These expensive works are kept in repair by the assessed contributions of the several proprietors, according to the value of their estates in the respective levels. The land, like marshy plains which have been drained, is cut into parallel ditches, in some of which the water is stagnant, and in others runs in perpetual streams, called *rheens*, which fall through flood-gates, or gouts, into the sea at ebb-tides. The proprietors of these lands are subject to the same laws as those of Romney marsh in Kent, of which an account has been already given in this work, and are under the control of a court of sewers.

TRADE, MANUFACTURES, COMMERCE, CUSTOMS, &c.—Till lately Monmouthshire was not ranked among the manufacturing counties, and that it is so at present has arisen from the rich mines of iron and coals with which it every where abounds. A flannel manufactory has long been established, but of very confined extent; some few coarse cloths, woollen stockings, and knit caps, are made by the inhabitants in the mountains, and brought to the great fairs for sale. The latter articles, which are much in demand for seafaring men, were formerly manufactured in much larger quantities than at present; but this trade has long been removed to Bewdley, in the county of Worcester, where numbers of caps are made, and still sold under the name of *Monmouth* caps.

A manufactory of *japanned goods*, celebrated under the name of *Pontypool ware*, so called from the town where it was first invented,

invented, in the reign of King Charles the Second, is still carried on at the same place, and also in the town of Usk; but has much declined since the efforts of a Baskerville and a Taylor, of Birmingham, have nearly monopolized the whole of this fancy trade.

The *Iron Works* are the boast, and certainly, in every point of view, the most important objects of trading consideration in Monmouthshire. The attention of the county, in respect to the modern history of the arts, was first excited to this lucrative branch of manufacture in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; an era no less celebrated for its political economy, than its military and diplomatic glory. From that period, considered by many the time of their origin, the iron business of this district, and in the adjacent one of Glamorganshire, made a rapid progress; and much surprise has been expressed why they should have been so long neglected. This surprise, indeed, may almost arise into wonder, when it is recollected, that iron was manufactured in this part of the island at an epoch beyond the reach of history. Large heaps of cinders, or *slag*, have often been discovered, evidently the refuse of Roman or British bloomeries, the process in which was the ancient method of fusing iron. In other places have been traced the sites of forges long disused, of which no account of their foundation can be collected, but from tradition. These cinders and furnaces afforded a sufficient proof of the assumption, that the iron mines were turned to good account at an early period; but the fact is further corroborated by numerous names, allusive to woods and forests, in places where no trees at present grow; and is still further ascertained by the discovery of trunks and branches of large trees, with their leaves, embalmed as it were, under the boggy soil in the vicinity of Blaenavon.—The iron trade again declined, after its revival in the time of Elizabeth, from a variety of causes. The troubles in the reign of Charles the First, and the changes which took place in point of property, occasioned an alteration in the genius of the people; agriculture was more attended to, the lands were cleared, the forests were neglected, and the numerous herds of

goats formerly kept in this part of the country, tended to destroy the woods, which were so essential to supply the necessary fuel for the forges; so that for a considerable period little or no iron was wrought. About forty years ago a sudden renewal of the works took place, occasioned by the discovery, that pit-coal would form an useful substitute for charcoal in the making of pig-iron; and its utility was further extended to the manufacturing of bar-iron. The local advantages of this county, in these respects, are peculiarly great; as the district abounds in iron ore, coal, lime, numerous streams of water, and every requisite proper for this branch of business. These have been powerfully aided by the mechanical powers, the use of the steam engine, the improvement in hydraulic machinery, and the adoption of rollers, instead of forge-hammers, called the *puddling* process, by which bar-iron is formed with a degree of dispatch and exactness previously unknown. "From this concurrence of circumstances the success has been no less rapid than extraordinary: fifteen years ago, the weekly quantity of pig-iron made in this part of Monmouthshire, and in the contiguous district of Glamorganshire, did not exceed sixty tons; at present it scarcely falls short of six hundred: at that period no bar-iron was manufactured; but now the quantity amounts weekly to more than three hundred tons. The works are still rapidly increasing in extent and importance, and appear likely to surpass the other iron manufactories throughout the kingdom*." Their extent and importance may be estimated from the subjoined list.

*A List of the principal Iron Manufactories.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sorwy | Pit-coal furnace | Mess. Monkhouse & Co. |
| Ebwy | Pit-coal furnace | Harford, Partridge, & Co. |
| Nant y Glô | Pit-coal, two furnaces | Hill, Harford, and Co. |
| Blaenavon | Pit-coal, three furnaces | J. Hill, and Co. |
| Abercarn | Pit-coal forge, and charcoal wire-work, and charcoal furnace | S. Glover, Esq. |

Machen,

* Coxe's Hist. Tour, &c. Vol. II. p. 230.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Machen ..... | Charcoal forge ..... | Mess. Harford, Partridge, and Co. |
| Gelliwasted.... | Charcoal forge ..... | |
| Bassaleg ..... | Charcoal forge ..... | |
| Caerleon ..... | Charcoal forge ..... | |
| Pontypool ... | Charcoal furnace and forges | C. Leigh, Esq. |
| | Two pit-coal furnaces .... | |
| Lansilio on Monnow .... | Charcoal forge ..... | |
| Trostrey ..... | Charcoal forges ..... | Harvey, Wason, and Co. |
| Monmouth.... | Charcoal forges ..... | Mess. Harford, Partridge, and Co. |
| Tintern Abbey, | Charcoal furnace, forges, and wire-works ..... | Mr. Thompson. |

Besides these iron works, there are at

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rogeston..... | Tin mills ..... | J. Butler, Esq. |
| Caerleon..... | Large tin-work ..... | |

The COMMERCE of this small county, by the advantages derived from its navigable rivers, the Wye and Usk, is very considerable; but being principally confined to the towns of Chepstow and Newport, a detailed account will be given of it in the description of the exports and imports of those respective places.

CUSTOMS.—The customs of the inhabitants of this county are very similar to those of the adjacent parts of Wales; and will meet with particular attention when the principality comes to be described. Two, however, merit notice here, as they are peculiarly striking to the traveller, on his first entrance into this part of the country from the eastern side of the Severn. The first is, that of white-washing the houses with lime, and repeating the operation as often as cleanliness suggests its renewal. It is impossible to travel in Monmouthshire, without being struck with the appearance of neatness and cheerfulness which results from this custom. The process is generally performed annually, at a stated time; but occasionally oftener. The white colour of these dwellings, scattered along the summits and sides of the hills, and surrounded with foliage of different hues, afforded, by the accompaniment of sylvan scenes, considerably heightens the picturesque effect produced by the diversified landscapes.

The custom of not only scattering flowers*, but planting them and evergreens over the graves of deceased friends, a usage of high antiquity, and so pleasingly described in Evans's and Barber's Tours in South Wales, as observable in that part, also prevails in this part of the country. This, so inviting, when confined to church-yards, is equally disgusting when introduced into churches. The pavements are frequently taken up, and seldom replaced, for the purpose of raising earth over the graves, to strew with flowers and evergreens. This custom is annually repeated; and the faded plants are seldom removed, but suffered to lie and rot on the surface; whence these tributes of refined affection become subjects of regret.

LANGUAGE.—A person unacquainted with this part of the kingdom, may be induced at first to smile at the idea of giving to the language of people inhabiting an *English* county, a distinct consideration. But English is not the only tongue spoken, and the use of *Welsh* is much more prevalent than is generally supposed. "In the north-eastern and south-eastern parts the English tongue is in common use; but in the south-western and north-western districts, the Welsh, excepting in the towns, is generally spoken. The natives of the midland parts are accustomed to both languages: in several places divine service is performed wholly in Welsh, in others in English; and in some alternately in both†." The same tenacity prevails in this part of the country, which distinguishes the principality, respecting the original language, customs, and manners; and though continual attempts have

* David ap Gwillym, in one of his notes, beautifully alludes to this practice. "O! whilst thy season of flowers, and thy tender sprays thick of leaves remain; I will pluck the roses from the brakes; the flowerets of the meads, and gems of the woods; the vivid trefoils, beauties of the ground, and the gaily smiling bloom of the verdant herbs, to be offered to the memory of a chief of fairest fame. Humbly will I lay them on the grave of Ivor!" An Invocation for the Summer to greet Morganoc. Translated by Mr. Owen.

† Coxe's Hist. Tour, Introduction, p. 2*.

have been made to remove them, by the establishing English schools, yet the progress of innovation is slow, and the antipathy to the introduction of the language and manners of the English still great and inveterate. The natives of the western and north-western parts, which are sequestered and mountainous, retain their ancient prejudices, and still brand every thing assimilating to English, with the opprobrious appellation of *Saxon*. Manufactures and trade have effected more than policy.

The provincial language spoken in this and the adjoining county of Glamorgan, is the *Gwentian*, one of the three dialects of Wales, in which many of the Welsh odes were composed, and was considered for centuries the purest, except that of Gwynedd, used in Cambria*.

POOR.—The following particulars respecting the poor, &c. are derived from the reports laid before parliament, and printed only for the use of the members, in 1804. In this official document it appears, "That returns were received from one hundred and forty-nine parishes or places in the county of MONMOUTH, in the year 1803; from one hundred and fifty in 1785; and from one hundred and forty-nine in 1776." It is further stated, that "Ten parishes or places maintain all, or part of, their poor *in* workhouses. The number of persons so maintained, during the year ending Easter, 1803, was one hundred and thirty-three; and the expence incurred therein amounted to 1,164l. 14s. 8d. being at the rate of 8l. 15s. 1$\frac{3}{4}$d. for each person maintained in that manner. By the returns of 1776, there were then no workhouses. The number of persons relieved *out* of workhouses, was four thousand three hundred and forty-six, besides one thousand two hundred and twenty-six, who were not parishioners. The expence incurred in the relief of the poor *not in* workhouses, amounted to 17,119l. 12s. 10$\frac{1}{4}$d. A large proportion of those who were not parishioners appear to have been

 vagrants;

* Upon this subject, see a critical disquisition by Mr. William Owen, the learned author of the Welsh Dictionary, published in the Appendix to Mr. Coxe's Historical Tour.

vagrants; and therefore, it is probable, that the relief given to this class of poor could not exceed two shillings each, amounting to 122l. 12s. This sum being deducted from the above 17,119l. 12s. 10¼d., leaves 16,997l. 0s. 10¼d.; being at the rate of 3l. 18s. 2¾d. for each parishioner relieved *out* of any workhouse.—The number of persons, relieved *in* and *out* of workhouses, was four thousand four hundred and seventy-nine, besides those who were not parishioners. Excluding the expence supposed to be incurred in the relief of this class of poor, all other expences relative to the maintenance of the poor, amounted to 19,649l. 12s. 5¾d., being at the rate of 4l. 7s. 9d. for each parishioner relieved.—The resident population of the county of Monmouth, in the year 1801, appears from the population abstract to have been forty-five thousand, five hundred and eighty-two; so that the number of parishioners relieved from the poor's-rate appears to be ten in an hundred of the resident population. The number of persons belonging to friendly societies, appears to be eight in an hundred of the resident population. The amount of the total money raised by rates appears to average at 11s. per head on the population. The amount of the whole expenditure, on account of the poor, appears to average at 8s. 8d. per head on the population. The expenditure in suits of law, removal of paupers, and expences of overseers and other officers, according to the present abstract, amounts to 1,478l. 6s. 11½d. The amount of such expenditure, according to the returns of 1785, was then 767l. 2s. 5d. The expenditure in purchasing materials for employing the poor, according to the present abstract, amounts to 185l. 1s. 9d. The amount of such expenditure, according to the returns of 1785, was then 12l. 11s. 3d. It does not appear that the poor of any parish or place in this county are farmed, or maintained under contract.—It is not known that any parish or place in this county maintains its poor under a special act of parliament. Six friendly societies have been enrolled at the quarter sessions of this county, pursuant to the acts of 33 and 35 George III."

A TABLE

## A TABLE

OF THE POPULATION, &c. OF MONMOUTHSHIRE,

As published by authority of Parliament, in 1801; with the names of the Hundreds and Towns.

| HUNDREDS. | Houses. | Persons. | | Occupations. | | Total of Persons. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male. | Female. | Chiefly employed in Agriculture. | Trade, Manufactures, or Handicrafts. | |
| Abergavenny, | 2,229 | 5,097 | 5,484 | 2,203 | 2,111 | 10,581 |
| Caldicot, | 1,456 | 3,765 | 3,874 | 1,867 | 496 | 7,639 |
| Raglan, | 1,237 | 2,943 | 3,013 | 2,305 | 668 | 5,956 |
| Scenfreth, | 726 | 1,643 | 1,688 | 1,962 | 222 | 3,331 |
| Usk, | 1,276 | 2,952 | 3,014 | 2,018 | 379 | 5,966 |
| Wentloog, | 1,764 | 4,261 | 4,503 | 2,136 | 1,025 | 8,764 |
| TOWN. | | | | | | |
| Monmouth, | 677 | 1,512 | 1,833 | 380 | 639 | 3,345 |
| Total | 9,365 | 22,173 | 23,409 | 12,871 | 5,540 | 45,582 |

## SCENFRETH HUNDRED

comprises part of a mountainous tract of land on the north-eastern part of Monmouthshire; and, exclusive of numerous small streams, is watered by the rivers Monnow, Trothy, and Wye; the latter entering it in the parish of Dixon, and the former constituting nearly the whole of its north-eastern boundary. This district forms a kind of introduction to the more mountainous adjacent parts on the north-west side of the county. It abounds with rich arable and pasture lands, which are finely in-

termixed with woods and orchards, and resembles the tract of country celebrated under the name of Erchinfield, translated by Leland " campus erinaceus," in the county of Hereford.

Besides the town of Monmouth, Scenfreth is divided, for parochial purposes, into the upper and lower divisions. The first includes the parishes of *Grosmont*, *Langua*, *Landeilo-Cressenny* upper and lower, *Lanvihangel-Tavarn-Bach*, *Lanvair*, and *Scenfreth*. The lower division contains the parishes of *Dixon-Newton*, including the hamlet of Dixon-Hadnock, *Langattock-Veibon-Aval*, *St. Maughan's*, *Rockfield*, *Welsh-Bicknor*, and *Wonostow*.

## MONMOUTH,

the principal town of the county, is situated on a tongue of land, formed by a confluence of the rivers Monnow and Wye, at the termination of a fine valley, which is surrounded by lofty hills, whose wooded declivities give additional charms to the natural beauty of the place. The British name was *Mongwy*, evidently derived from its peninsular situation on the rivers *Mon* and *Wye**. This place is early recorded in history, and some writers have considered it of Roman origin; although no vestiges of the Romans have been discovered, either on the site, or in the immediate vicinity. Horsley, with whom the best informed antiquaries agree, fixes here the station *Blestium* of Antoninus; for which opinion the principal argument is derived from the coincidence

* Leland says, " Monmuth town is waulled, and standeth yn the diocese of Hereford, betwyxt ii rivers Wy and Mone, of the which it takith name." Itin. Vol. IV. p. 8. Various conjectures have been made respecting the ancient name; some supposing it so called, because situated among *mountains*, from the British name, *Mynyddeu*. But the derivation from the two British names of the rivers, on whose banks the town stands, is far more natural. It is sometimes called *Aberfynwy*, and *Trefynwy*, that is, the confluence of the Mon and Wye, and the town on the Mon and Wye. Its present English name is obvious, The Mouth of the Mon, or Monnow.

coincidence of distances between that and the connecting stations, northward and southward, with the actual distances between those and the present site of Monmouth. In this point the Itinerary of Richard corresponds. These circumstances strongly militate against the opinion of Camden, who placed that station at Oldcastle, or Longtown; the distance from either of which by no means quadrate with those given as the extent from Burrium, or Ariconium: and they as strongly support the opinion of Horsley for placing it in this interesting lingula of land.

Historic record points out Monmouth as a fortified town at an early period. It is mentioned as a fortress so early as the time of the Saxons, who, for a short time, occupied it as one of their strong holds, to secure the conquests of the country between the Severn and Wye; and to prevent, or curb, the depredatory incursions of the Welsh. The state, however, of this part of the island, at that and the subsequent period, receives little elucidation from Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Danish history. The history of the CASTLE will furnish the best clue to illustrate that of the place.

Anterior to the Norman conquest, a fortress existed at Monmouth, to overawe the inhabitants of the country bordering upon the part of Mercia which at present is included in the counties of Hereford and Gloucester. It then appears to have belonged to the sovereign; for in Domesday Book it is stated, "in the castle of Monmouth the king has four carucates of land, which formed part of the royal demesne, and its custody was committed to William Fits Baderon." The sons and successors of whom assumed, from the place, the surname of Monmoth, or Monmouth, and his descendants were seized of it till the reign of Henry the Third, when John de Monmouth was the possessor. During the long intestine commotions which distracted the reign of that dastardly and impolitic prince, who succeeded the ill-fated John, while the barons contended for their rights and privileges, Monmouth was alternately possessed by the opposite parties; and in the several sieges it endured, suffered repeated demolitions. Lambarde observes,

serves, "The citie had once a castle in it, where in tyme of Hen. III. Richard the erle marshall associatinge to him other noblemen, and movinge war against the kinge, for that he more estimed strangers borne then his natural subjects, gave him a sharp conflicte, and slew sundry of his souldiers. Not long after th' erle of Gloucester, having forsaken th' erle of Leycester, took for his succour the same castle and fortified it; but Symon speedily following, assailed, toke, and raised it to the ground. *Thus the glorie of Monmouth had cleane perished, ne had it pleased God longe after in that place to give life to the noble king Hen. V.* who of the same is called Henry of Monmouth *." The cause of the barons was warmly espoused by the Welsh, and the Earl of Leicester had recruited his army in this part of the country, previous to the disasterous battle near Evesham, in Worcestershire, which proved equally fatal to him and the baronial cause. Under these circumstances, the castle of Monmouth, among others, became of the utmost importance for the support of royalty; and John de Monmouth, the sixth in descent from Fitz Baderon, having no issue male, was induced to resign the custody and honour of this demesne, on consideration of a certain life-hold estate, to Prince Edward, afterward King Edward the First, and his heirs for ever, in the year 1257. Yet Camden states, speaking of the erection of this fortress, "The castle, which appears, from the public records, to have flourished in William the Conqueror's time, though supposed to have been built by John, Baron of Monmouth, from whom it came to the house of Lancaster, when Henry III. stripped him of his estate, for his obstinate adherence to the barons against him; or rather, as we read in the king's prerogative, because his heirs had taken the oath of allegiance to the Earls of Bretagne †." Prince Edward having resigned the castle in favour of his brother, Edmund Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster, King Henry granted it to the latter, and

* Topographical Dictionary.

† Britannia, Gough's Edit. Vol. II. p. 477.

and the grant was subsequently confirmed by Edward the First. In his family it continued till it came into the possession of John of Gaunt, by his marriage with Blanch, daughter and heiress of Henry Duke of Lancaster. John of Gaunt was granted the same title held by his wife's father, and with it the palatinate of Lancaster. of which this fortress formed a parcel, with more extended privileges; and Monmouth Castle was a favourite residence of his, and of his son Henry of Bolingbroke, afterwards King Henry the Fourth, in whose reign it was distinguished by giving birth to the hero of Agincourt, thence denominated Henry of Monmouth. The castle of Monmouth, as part of the duchy of Lancaster, descended by inheritance to Henry the Sixth. By his attainder it came to Edward the Fourth, who granted it, in the fifth year of his reign, to William Lord Herbert, afterwards Earl of Pembroke; but reverting again to the crown, it formed, as before, parcel of the duchy of Lancaster, which Henry the Seventh possessed by the same right that he ascended the throne. Since that period the castle of Monmouth, with several other possessions of his in the county, have become private property. "It appears, from numerous grants, that the castle was parcel of the duchy of Lancaster, during the reign of Elizabeth; and that in the 11th of James I. it was presented, under a commission, as belonging to the duchy. Before the end of the last century, we find it in the possession of Henry, the first Duke of Beaufort, as appears from a singular anecdote, recorded in the secret memoirs of Monmouthshire. 'The Marchioness of Worcester was ordered, by her grandfather, the late Duke of Beaufort, to lie in of her first child in a house lately built within the castle of Monmouth, near that spot of ground and space where our great hero Henry V. was born.' His illustrious descendant, the Duke of Beaufort, is the present proprietor *."

The remains of this once formidable fortress, which was constructed of red grit-stone, stand on the ridge of an eminence by the banks of the Monnow, to the north of the town, and are so surrounded

* Coxe's Hist. Tour, &c. p. 312.

rounded by other buildings, as scarcely to be visible; but though greatly diminished, they present, from the river, an appearance of dilapidated grandeur, which recals to memory its former political importance and extensive magnificence.

In viewing the present ruin, though some parts of it appear of very remote foundation; yet the general style of the building indicates an era posterior to the civil wars, in the reign of Henry the Third, when it was taken, and razed to the ground, by Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester. Many vestiges of the castle may yet be discovered amidst tenements, stables, and out-houses. "Some vaults, under the house of Mr. Cecil," are of the oldest character; and, from the fashion of their construction, may be attributed to the Saxon, if not to the Roman period. The massive structure of these walls merits observation. They are from six to ten feet thick, composed of pebbles and liquidated cement, like those described by Vitruvius; and are so closely compacted as not to yield in hardness to stone itself. Although the roof and several of the side walls have fallen, yet the site of two remarkable apartments may be traced with exactness. The chamber where the hero of Monmouth was born pertained to an upper story, and the beams that supported the floor, still project from the side walls, by which it appears to have been fifty-eight feet long, by twenty-four broad. It had pointed arched windows, some of which remain, and serve to designate the age of their building. Another large apartment adjoining this, sixty-three feet in length, and forty-six in breadth, probably formed the baronial hall; and, as appears by an inquisition, was used in the time of James the First for the county assizes, which continued to be held in it, till the middle of the last century. At the north-east angle, withinside a stable, is a circular tower, six feet in diameter, which contained the winding stair-case leading to the grand apartments. A short time since a large mass of the south wall fell with a tremendous crash, leaving a dilapidated chasm of about forty feet, whence the thickness of the walls is discovered to be more than ten feet.

Within

Within the site of the castle, or rather in the midst of this pile of ruins, is a handsome domestic edifice, constructed of stones taken from the surrounding fragments. By the date over the door, this mansion was built in the year 1673, and formed an occasional residence of the Beaufort family.

Among the ancient buildings of this town, was

AN ALIEN PRIORY for black monks of the Benedictine order, founded in the reign of Henry the First, by Wyhenoc, grandson of Fitz Baderon, and third lord of Monmouth, who made it a cell to the monastery of St. Florence, near Salmur, in Anjou. The annual revenues, at the Dissolution, were valued at 56l. 1s. 11d. and Richard Taltbush, the last prior, received an annuity of 9l.* The site of the priory church occupied the space on which stands the present parish church, and the tower, with the lower part of the spire, are all the remains of the original edifice. A few vestiges of the monastery are still visible, north of the church; and a small apartment, having a large ancient projecting window, is pointed out as the study, once belonging to the celebrated *Jeffry of Monmouth;* but the style of the building is very far from synchronizing with the early part of the thirteenth century, when the British historian is reported to have lived. This and other apartments are incorporated in a house now forming the family residence of Daniel Williams, Esq.

TWO HOSPITALS also were founded here by John de Monmouth, about the year 1240†.

Monmouth early became a privileged place under the auspices of its lords; and as a burgh, enjoyed many immunities which it derived from its forming a parcel of the duchy of Lancaster. The earliest charter, however, found in the archives of the duchy, is dated in 1549, and was granted by Edward the Sixth "to the burgesses of his burg and town of Monmouth, in the marches of Wales, and within his duchy of Lancaster." In this the king confirms

* Willis's Mitred Abbies, Vol. II. p. 142.

† Tanner's Not. Monast. p. 329.

confirms various franchises and privileges, which had been previously granted by Henry the Eighth; and adds the power of electing a mayor and two bailiffs. Since that period, Monmouth has been a borough and corporate town, governed by a mayor, two bailiffs, and fifteen common-councilmen. It first sent a member to the British senate in the 27th of Henry the Eighth; and in consequence of a petition of rights to parliament, in the year 1680, the house decided the right of election, as before observed, to be in the burgesses inhabitants, in conjunction with the burgesses inhabitants of the towns of Newport and Usk.

The town includes, according to the returns of population to government, in 1801, 677 houses, and 3,345 inhabitants. Mr. Coxe, however, though from what authority he does not state, fixes the standard lower. "Monmouth contains six hundred houses; the average number of births in a year is between seventy and eighty, and of burials seventy; the population amounts to about 2,600 souls*."

At present there is little *Trade* at Monmouth: some iron and tin-works in the vicinity, belonging to Partridge and company, furnish employment for a few hands; and in the season, barking occupies a number of people. The bark is brought down the river from the woods in the upper districts of the Wye, and here landed on the banks, where men, women, and children are employed in picking, paring, and cleansing the article, preparatory to its being exported at Chepstow for the south of England, and different parts of Ireland: numerous piles or ricks, containing from fifty to a hundred tons, may be seen at one time on the banks of the river. But the principal support of the inhabitants arises from the navigation of the Wye, and the trade between Hereford and Bristol, and the intermediate places, supplying the neighbouring districts with all kinds of shop goods; and from the numerous respectable people, who constantly or occasionally reside in the town or its vicinity. *Caps* once formed a very considerable

* Hist. Tour, &c. p. 291.

siderable trade at Monmouth; and their prevalency, and the place famous for the manufacture of them, did not escape the observation of our immortal bard. In Shakespeare's play of Henry the Fifth, alluding to the fashion, or rather the military habit of the times (for the caps appear then to have been worn by the soldiers, as they subsequently were by seafaring men), Fluellyn is made to say, in his address to the king: "If your majesties is remembered of it, the Welshmen did goot service in a garden, where leeks did grow, wearing leeks in their *Monmouth caps*." Fuller, who, amidst a mass of quaint and irrelevant observations, has many useful notices respecting manners and customs, gives an interesting account of these caps, the manner of making them, and the number of hands they went through in manufacturing. "These were the most ancient, general, warm, and profitable covering of mens' heads in this island. It is worth our pains to observe the tenderness of our kings to preserve the trade of cap making, and what long and strong struggling our state had to keep up the using thereof, so many thousands of people being maintained thereby in the land, especially before the invention of fulling mills; all caps before that time being wrought, beaten, and thickened by the hands and feet of men, till those mills, as they eased many of their labour, outed more of their livelihood. Capping anciently set fifteen distinct callings on work, as they are reckoned up in the statute: 1. Carders, 2. spinners, 3. knitters, 4. parters of wool, 5. forfers, 6. thickers, 7. dressers, 8. walkers, 9. dyers, 10. bottellers, 11. shearers, 12. pressers, 13. edgers, 14. liners, 15. band-makers, and other exercises. No wonder then, that so many statutes were enacted in parliament to encourage this handicraft." Having then enumerated several of the acts passed in the reigns of Edward the Fourth and Henry the Eighth, for the encouragement of the trade, he adds, "Lastly, to keep up the usage of caps, it was enacted in the thirteenth of Queen Elizabeth, cap. 19, that they should be worn by all persons (some of worship and quality excepted) on sabbath and holidays, on the pain of forfeiting

forfeiting ten groats for the omission thereof. But it seems nothing but hats would fit the heads (or humours rather) of the English, as fancied by them to fit their fair faces from the injury of wind and weather, so that in the thirty-ninth of Queen Elizabeth this statute was repealed. Yet the cap, accounted by the Romans an emblem of liberty, is esteemed by the English (except falconers and hunters) a badge of servitude, though very useful in themselves, and the ensign of constancy, because not discomposed, but retaining their fashion in what form soever they be crouded. The best caps were formerly made at Monmouth, where the capper's chapel doth still remain, being better carved and gilded than any other part of the church. But on the occasion of a great plague happening in this town, the trade was some years since removed hence to Beaudly, in Worcestershire; yet that they are called Monmouth caps unto this day. Thus this town retains, though not the profit, the credit of capping, and seeing the child keeps the mother's name, there is some hope in due time she may return to her*."

The remains of *walls*, lines of circumvallation, curtains, bastions, &c. shew this town once to have been a strongly fortified place, and from its situation might be easily rendered so again. It was defended on every side by walls, wherever unprotected by the rivers, and those again were surrounded by deep fossa, capable of being filled with water; it had four gates, and the suburbs, containing the hamlet of St. Thomas, was defended in a similar manner. But in Leland's † time the walls were in a mouldering state; and such fragments as now appear, are only preserved for domestic convenience.

The town is extensive, and contains some good buildings, but only one principal street. Communications are formed with the suburbs and adjacent country by means of *three bridges*, viz. Wye-bridge, Monnow-bridge, and Tibb's-bridge, exclusive of one over

* Fuller's Worthies, article Monmouthshire.

† Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 8.

over the Trothy, in the liberty of St. Thomas. That over the Wye is a good stone structure, and consists of several arches. Monnow-bridge is built of stone, and appears to be coeval with the bastion towers, which formed its gateway. Tibb's-bridge is erected of wood, on lozenge-shaped stone piers.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH belonged to the priory, but the tower and lower part of the spire are the only remains of the ancient edifice. The body of the church is extremely light and well proportioned, and the range of columns separating the nave from the aile, and supporting an horizontal entablature, would have a pleasing effect, did not the fine pointed west window, with its highly ornamented tracery, rouse the indignation of taste at the motley mixture of styles and decorations. Nor does the outside better correspond with the pointed windows of the tower, and its elegantly tapering spire. The latter, which is nearly two hundred feet from the base of the building, forms a conspicuous and beautiful object in the distant view; and the traveller will be highly gratified with the prospects from the parapet of the tower.

ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH, now a *chapel* to St. Mary's, is a small, very ancient structure, near the foot of Monnow-bridge. "The simplicity of its form, the circular shape of the door-ways, of the arch separating the nave from the chancel, and the style of their ornaments, which bear a Saxon character, seem to indicate that it was built before the Conquest*." But as this was part of the site during the Saxon era, and the Saxons were never long in possession of this part of the country, a question may be suggested, whether the more ancient parts of the building might not have been British? The zigzag and nail-head mouldings of the interior arch, between the nave and chancel, form a curious specimen, for Wales, of ancient architecture; and the northern door-way of the nave is peculiarly worthy of notice by the anti-quary, for the manner in which its semicircular arch is con-structed.



* Coxe's Hist. Tour, p. 299.

The FREE-SCHOOL, which is a good building, was founded in the reign of King James the First, by a person named *William Jones*, who had acquired a considerable fortune by his own industry, as appears from the inscription underneath a portrait of the founder, habited in the costume of the age, and preserved in the school-room: "Walter William Jones, haberdasher and merchant, of London, &c." "The tradition of the town gives a singular story of its establishment: He was a native of Newland, in Gloucestershire, but passed the early part of his life in a menial capacity at Monmouth; from this situation he became a shop-boy to a merchant in London, where his acuteness procured his admission to the compting-house; and he performed the office of clerk with such diligence, skill, and fidelity, that he was employed by his master as a factor abroad, and afterwards taken into partnership. Having raised an ample fortune, he quitted London, returned to Newland, under the appearance of great poverty, and made an application to the parish: being tauntingly advised to seek relief at Monmouth, where he had lived at service, and would find persons disposed to assist him, had he conducted himself with propriety; he repaired thither, and experienced the charity of several inhabitants. In gratitude for this reception, he founded a free-school on a liberal establishment: to the master a house, with a salary of 90l. a year; to the usher, a salary of 45l. a year, with a house; and to a lecturer, for the purpose of inspecting the almshouses, reading prayers, and preaching a weekly sermon, an excellent house and garden, with a salary of 105l. a year. He also built almshouses for twenty poor people, leaving to each 3s. 6d. a week*."

A broad and handsome street leads from Monnow-bridge to THE MARKET PLACE, which is ornamented with a new TOWN HALL, erected on columns, forming in front a noble colonnade. But the miserably executed statue of Henry the Fifth, and its still

* Communication from the Rev. Mr. Prosser, the lecturer, quoted in Coxe's Hist. Tour, p. 293.

still more disgusting attitude, with an inscription commemorative of his birth, disfigures the building.

Near the extremity of the town, on the banks of the Monnow, stands

THE COUNTY GAOL, a new, compact, massive building. Its plan, which is visible in the airiness of the apartments, the wisdom and propriety of its regulations, and the attention paid to the cleanliness and morals of the prisoners, reflects great credit on the good sense and public spirit of the magistrates, &c. of the county.

Many of the houses are good, but not remarkable for architecture, and nearly the whole being white-washed, give the town a singular appearance to a traveller on his first arrival from the east of the Severn. The mode in which, in some parts of the town, the buildings are detached, particularly in what are called White-cross, and Monks'-street, with the intervening gardens and orchards, gives the houses the appearance of small villas. Indeed, in the vernal, estival, and autumnal seasons, nothing can be imagined more delightful than the rides, walks, and prospects in, and around Monmouth. The walks in the environs are extremely pleasant, especially those through Chippenham Meadow, an agreeable oval plain, environed by the town on the one side, and the Monnow and Wye on the others; and at the south-eastern extremity, the former river delivers its waters to the latter, beneath a grove of fine elms, which gives additional interest to the features of the fall. This mead, on summer evenings, is a general rendezvous for company, and forms a natural theatre for the display of Gwentonian beauty.

The prospects from the hills, in the vicinity of Monmouth, are equally of a pleasing character, and wear features as inviting as they are diversified and new. The town must not be dismissed before some brief notice be taken of two eminent natives, highly distinguished in the annals of human celebrity.

JEFFERY, or GEOFFRY OF MONMOUTH, who was also called *Galfridus Arthurius*, but whose proper name was *Geoffry ap*

*Arthur*, is reported to have been a native of the town; and this appears very probable, as no other place has preferred a claim to the honour of his birth. Certain it is, that he received his education, and was afterwards a monk, in the Benedictine convent of this place. He flourished in the time of King Henry the Second; was first appointed archdeacon of Monmouth, and then made bishop of St. Asaph, in 1152, which see he subsequently resigned, and became abbot of the monastery at Abingdon, where he died *. He wrote several religious and poetical treatises; but none of sufficient merit alone to rescue his name from oblivion. His fame has arisen from a translation into Latin of a British history, entitled, "*Brut y breninodd*," or the Chronicle of the Kings of Britain, which he called, "*Chronicon, sive Historia Britonum*." This work is interspersed with numerous romantic and legendary tales, relative to the interesting days of yore; and has occasioned a long and undecided controversy respecting its nature, derivative sources, and merited degree of credibility. Some writers have treated it as a forgery, imposed upon the world by the artfulness of Geoffry himself, under the veil of a translation. But the discovery of the original silenced this objection. By others the foundation, or leading traits in the work, have been considered as genuine; although, like many other histories written in times of monkish superstition, it is mixed with puerile fables and legendary lies. Dr. Davies and Dr. Powel, with others, have been inclined to attach considerable credit to the authenticity of this history, without adverting to the "Index Expurgatorius," by which it appears to have been included in the list of books proscribed at Rome. Mr. Lluyd and Bishop Tanner were of opinion that the fabulous part of the account

* Bale's English Writers, and Moreri's Historical Dictionary. In the additions to Camden's Britannia, Gough's Edition, Vol. II. p. 483, it is stated, that "Being obliged to quit Wales in the troubles, he had the custody of Abendon Abbey from Henry I. (II.) but resigning his bishopric with a view to that Abbey, he lost both. The time of his death is uncertain."

count was anterior to the time of Geoffry, although he himself acknowledges, his history was not *intirely* a translation from the British manuscript, and confesses, he made several additions, particularly the prophecies of Merlin; and inserted some circumstances which he had heard from the mouth of the learned historian Walter, Archdeacon of Oxford, who furnished him with the manuscript. Thompson, the English translator of Geoffry's British History, has written an elaborate defence of the work, and vindicates his author with great learning and ability. But though he has fairly refuted the charge of forgery, he has failed to establish the work as an historic document. The best Welsh critics allow, that Geoffry's performance was a vitiated translation of the "History of the British Kings," written by Tyssilio, or St. Teilau, Bishop of St. Asaph, a writer who lived in the seventh century. Geoffry is stated to have omitted many parts, made considerable interpolations, and various alterations, latinized many of the British appellations, and materially altered and disguised the historian Tyssilio *. Dispassionate and unbiassed judgment will view it as founded on authentic documents; although any account the Britons were able to preserve in such times of confusion as the period assigned, must have been at best irregular, and extremely defective; and embellished with other romantic tales, which Geoffry might find as traditions among the Welsh, and such as he thought adapted to the credulity of the times. But whatever opinion may be entertained in regard to its authenticity and historical authority, the work is highly entertaining. The British history formed a new era in the literature of this country; and, with the similar kind of history of Charlemagne, by Turpin, supposed to have been written in the eleventh century, tended to the introduction, or rather invention, of a new species of composition, denominated *romance*. Robert, a monk of Gloucester, who wrote a history of England, from Brutus to the



* See a Letter from Lewis Morris to Edward Richard, printed in the Cambrian Register for 1795, p. 347.

reign of Edward the First, in Alexandrian verse, was indebted to Geoffry's work for most of his statements. And Warton, in his history of English poetry, observes, " that the tales have often a more poetical air in Jeffery's prose than in his rhyming chronicle, which is totally destitute of art or imagination, and from its obsolete language scarcely intelligible." From the history of Britain some of our best poets have drawn numerous materials for their sublime compositions. Spencer, in his Faerie Queene, has given

> " A chronicle of Briton's kings,
> From Brute to Arthur's rayne."

To this historical romance the immortal Thespian bard was indebted for the tale which forms the subject of his incomparable tragedy of King Lear. This will be seen by comparing the play with the affecting history in Geoffry's Leir, King of Britain, who is described as the eleventh in descent from Brutus, and said to have divided his kingdom between his two elder daughters, Gonorilla and Regan, disinheriting his youngest, Cordeilla. Having been ungratefully requited by his elder daughters, he was reinstated on the throne by Cordeilla, who had married Aganippus, King of the Franks. The beautiful fiction of Sabrina, in the mask of Comus, Milton appears to have borrowed from Monmouth's History of Britain; and he seemed peculiarly fond of the marvellous stories there told, for he derived from them much of his historic allusion in the Paradise Lost, especially what relates to his own country;

> " And what resounds,
> In fable or romance, of Uther's son,
> Begirt with British and Armoric knights."

Even the two historic epic poets, Davies and Blackmore, if names like these may be allowed to appear after those already named, were under much obligation for the tales they have embodied in their verse; and if their works may be considered an acquisition

acquisition to our poetical fund, we stand greatly indebted to Geoffry of Monmouth.

HENRY THE FIFTH, King of England, the hero of *Agincourt*, and the proud boast of English history, was born in this town, and thence denominated Henry of Monmouth. The very early part of his life appears to have been spent in this county; and during the interval which elapsed between his father's banishment and accession to the crown, he met with a favourable reception in the court of his royal cousin, Richard the Second. After Henry's father had ascended the throne, the young prince was sent to Oxford, and studied under the auspices of his uncle, the Cardinal Beaufort, who was then chancellor of that university. Stow, who particularly describes his person and character, observes, the prince at that period discovered a predilection for learning and learned men; but had also a great taste and pleasure in music, for he "delighted in songs, meeters, and musical instruments." His career of study at Oxford was but of short duration; he was early initiated in the use of arms, and soon had occasion to reduce his knowledge to practice. At the age of sixteen, in the memorable battle of Shrewsbury, he displayed that military prowess which augured his future renown. Thomas de Elmham, who wrote his life, describes him on that occasion, as undismayed at unfavourable appearances, scorning flight, leading his gallant followers into the thickest of the battle; and, by his valour, and the influence of his example, turning the fate of the day, and saving the person of his royal father. He afterwards headed an army against the British chieftain Owen Glendwr, whom, in various rencounters, he defeated; and finally terminated the formidable rebellion excited and conducted by that lawless chieftain. He was no less successful against the Scots; making inroads into their country, he compelled them to accept terms of peace, took hostages for their future fidelity, and, with numerous spoils, returned in triumph to London.

But so active a mind as Henry possessed was ill adapted for a life of indolence and ease. Having been removed from his fa-

ther's councils, and soured by the preference given at court to his younger brothers, he abandoned himself to degrading company; and, seeking for consolation and amusement in their scurrilous wit and low buffoonery, he broke out into excesses unbecoming his birth, and injurious to his reputation. The licentiousness of his conduct has, however, been greatly exaggerated by many of our historians; and the representations of the character and conduct of himself and his companions, by the captivating bard of Avon, have tended to rivet the belief of such unsupported accounts in the mind of the public. But Stow, who appears to approximate nearest to truth, represents his conduct as more the effect of folly, than as proceeding from a vicious mind; and the sudden transition from his former irregularities is satisfactorily accounted for by his biographer, Thomas de Elmham. He represents it as effected by the forgiveness and blessing bestowed upon him by his father, when in the agonies of death, which induced him to reflect on his past follies, to seek the pardon of heaven, and to resolve upon instant amendment. To which resolution, happily for himself and his people, he ever after steadily adhered. The circumstances of the instantaneousness of his transformation are depicted in a masterly manner by Shakspeare:—

"The courses of his youth promis'd it not.
The breath no sooner left his father's body,
But that his wildness, mortified in him,
Seem'd to die too: yea, at that very moment,
Consideration like an angel came,
And whipp'd the offending Adam out of him;
Leaving his body, as a paradise,
To envelope and contain celestial spirits.
Never was such a sudden scholar made;
Never came reformation in a flood,
With such a heady current, scouring faults;
Nor ever Hydra headed wilfulness,
So soon did lose his seat, and all at once,
As in this king*."

The

* Play of King Henry the Fifth.

The first public proof he gave of the prudent change of his sentiments was the dismissal of his dissolute favourites and adherents. "After his coronation, he called unto him all his young lords and gentlemen, that were the followers of his young acts, to every one of whom he gave rich and bounteous gifts, and then commanded, that as many as would change their manners, as hee intended to doe, should abide with him in his court; and to all that would persevere in their former light conversation, he gave expresse commandment, upon pain of their heads, never after that day to come into his presence*."

But there is no act of his conduct which forms a more brilliant trait in his character, and more strongly indicates how those have erred, who attributed the eccentricities of his early days to the natural vicious propensities of his heart, than his behaviour to the Earl of March. Conscious that nobleman was the rightful heir to the crown, yet, instead of pursuing the narrow policy which conscious guilt, and apprehensive jealousy have almost invariably adopted on such occasions, he released him from his confinement, and treated him with such courteous attention and affectionate kindness, that the noble youth virtually forgot his prior title; from motives of gratitude served, with fidelity, his royal benefactor, and ever afterwards evinced the most inviolable attachment. Compassionating the misfortunes of the Percys, he recalled from Scotland the son and heir of Hotspur, who had joined the Welsh confederacy against his father, and whom, in person, he had defeated at Shrewsbury, and reinvested that young nobleman with his patrimonial honours. His conduct towards the memory of fallen greatness is no less conspicuous. "Henry the Fifth," observes a judicious writer, "is usually celebrated only for his military prowess, while the milder qualities of justice and humanity, for which he was no less conspicuous, are lost in the splendour of his victorious career. He condemned the deposition and imprisonment of Richard, and treated all concerned

* Stow's Hist. of Britain, p. 345.

concerned in his murder as traitors: as an atonement for his father's crimes, and to evince his own respect to Richard's memory, he ordered his corpse to be magnificently interred in Westminster Abbey, among his royal ancestors, and attended the funeral, declaring, 'that he mourned as truly for him, as if he had been his natural father*.'"

On the incidents of his reign, and his military exploits, so generally known from the History of England, it would be superfluous to descant; and to consider him as Duke of Lancaster and Lord of Monmouth Castle, after those titles, and the conduct of the personage who bore them had emerged in royalty, and its concomitant duties, would be irrelevant to the present purpose: suffice it to say, the character given of this ornament of Monmouth, and pride of the kingdom, by the judicious historian, Dr. Henry, accords better with the mass of historic facts than that written by Hume. "Some of our cotemporary historians have heaped upon this prince, with a liberal but injudicious hand, all the praises they could collect, expressed in the most extravagant and bombastic language. It may, however, be affirmed, without the least exaggeration, that he possessed an excellent understanding, which enabled him to form his designs with judgment, and to choose the most effectual means, and favourable seasons, for carrying them into execution. His heart was warm as his head was cool, and his courage equal to his wisdom, which emboldened him to encounter the greatest dangers, and surmount the greatest difficulties. His virtues were not inferior to his abilities, being a dutiful son, a fond parent, an affectionate brother, a steady and generous friend, and an indulgent master. His youthful excesses proceeded rather from a redundancy of spirit, than depravity of heart. His intolerance and severity to those who dissented from the established system of religion, was the vice of the age rather than of the man. The injustice of his attempt to obtain the crown of France cannot be denied; but the probability

* Coxe's Hist. Tour, &c. p. 311.

bability of its success, from the distracted state of that kingdom, was too great a temptation to be resisted by a young, warlike, and ambitious prince. In a word, Henry V. though not without his failings, merits the character of an amiable and accomplished man, a great and good king *."

The traveller will naturally, on quitting Monmouth, take a retrospective view of the town, and then advert to the objects in its vicinity. The features of Monmouth, as seen from the environs, are singularly picturesque and diversified. In a point from Tibb's Farm, on the opposite side of the Monnow, it appears as standing high on the semicircular ridge on which the castle forms a bold and venerable object. In another point, near Tibb's Bridge, the scene is peculiarly wild and romantic; the river and bridge, form a fore ground, the church and priory are almost the only buildings seen of the town through the umbrageous trees, and the hills terminate the distant view. From other points it appears as though situated in a plain; while from the banks of the Wye, the houses seem rising up the acclivity of a hill, like the seats of an amphitheatre, and the church beautifully surmounting them with its lofty and elegant spire.

In the vicinity of Monmouth is a high conical hill, called the KYMIN, which suddenly rises from the banks of the Wye; and though partly situated in Gloucestershire, an account of it more properly arranges with the description of the county now under consideration. A pleasant walk has been made to the summit, which terminates in a level plain, crowned with a beautiful wood, called Beaulieu Grove, through which vistas have been cut; and at the extremities, on the verge of the declivity, accommodation-seats are placed. There are six of these openings, through which is presented in fine perspective, a vast expanse of rich, grand, and diversified scenery; and at some seasons of the year the

* Henry's History of Great Britain, Vol. IX. p. 74.

the most luxuriant and enchanting views. If any one of these could be selected from the rest, it is the one where the eye follows the river Wye, sweeping in a beautiful curve from Dixon Church to the mouth of the Monnow, with the town situated on its banks; and beyond, the undulating swells and elevations of country terminating in the Great and Little Skyrrid, Sugar Loaf, and Black Mountains, in all the variety of forms and elegance of contrasted beauty. In the centre of this eminence a *pavilion* has been erected by subscription, intended as a naval monument, as well as a place of accommodation for the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. This is a circular edifice, in form of an embattled tower, having the frieze round it ornamented with medallions of the most eminent British admirals, accompanied with emblematic and appropriate devices. It consists of two stories; the upper a banqueting-room, and the lower a kitchen. The former has five windows, commanding different views over Monmouthshire, Gloucestershire, and Herefordshire: and extending beyond these to the counties of Somerset, Glamorgan, Brecon, Radnor, Salop, and Worcester*. But what pen can describe, or pencil delineate this wonderful range of diversified prospect, which extends to such an immense circumference! "I shall not," says Mr. Coxe, "attempt to describe the unbounded expanse of country which presents itself around and beneath, and embraces a circumference of nearly three hundred miles. The eye, satiated with the distant prospects, reposes at length on the near views; dwells on the country immediately beneath and around; is attracted with the pleasing position of Monmouth, here seen to singular advantage; admires the elegant bend and silvery current of the Monnow, glistening through meads in its course towards the

* Mr. Charles Heath, printer, of Monmouth, has published an account of this pavilion, in which is a minute detail of the different objects to be seen from the five windows, and a description of the perspective views from the seats in Beaulieu Grove.

the Wy, and the junction of the two rivers, which form an assemblage of beautiful objects*."

About a mile to the south-east of Monmouth is TROY HOUSE, an ancient seat of the Herbert family, which afterwards came into that of the Somerset. It stands upon the banks of the Trothy, from which the name of *Troy* is corruptly derived. Of the ancient mansion only an old gateway, with a pointed arch, is left standing: the present edifice is of more recent date, having been built by the celebrated Inigo Jones; yet nothing is apparent in the building according with the celebrity of that architect, and the low situation in which the house stands takes off much from the effect. The apartments are well proportioned, commodious, and not deficient in point of grandeur. Disposed over these is a large collection of family pictures, among which are portraits of several distinguished characters; and though of consequence in a biographical point of view, they exhibit little interesting to the fine arts. Troy House was at an early period famed for its excellent gardens, and their productions, particularly delicious fruits, as appears by an anecdote which occurs in the Apothegms of the Earl of Worcester. "Sir Thomas Somerset, brother to the Marquis of Worcester, had a house which was called Troy, five miles from Raglan Castle. This Sir Thomas being a complete gentleman, delighted much in fine gardens and orchards, where, by the benefit of art, the earth was made so grateful to him, at the same time that the king (Charles the First) happened to be at his brother's house, that it yielded him wherewithal to send brother Worcester a present, and such a one, as the times and seasons considered, was able to make the king believe that the sovereign of the planets had now changed the poles, and that Wales (the refuse and outcast of the fair garden of England) had fairer and riper fruit than England's bowels had on all her beds. This present given to the marquis, he would not suffer to be presented to the king by any other hand than his own. 'Here I present

* Hist. Tour, p. 300; in which is an engraving of a panoramic view from the summit of the Kymin.

present you, Sir,' said the marquis (placing his dishes on the table), 'with that which came not from Lincoln that was, nor London that is, nor York that is to be, but from Troy.' Whereupon the king smiled, and answered the marquis, 'Truly, my lord, I have heard that corn grows where Troy town stood; but I never thought, that there had grown any apricots before.'"

But the gardens of Troy House were famous anterior to its coming into the family of Somerset. For William Herbert, who possessed it in the time of Henry the Eighth, sent two men, by the names of Richards and Williams, to France and Flanders, for the express purpose of studying horticulture, and importing esculent vegetables and choice fruit-trees*.

An historical account of the early state and progress of gardening, the changes it has at periods undergone, and the time and manner of the introduction of our exotic, but cultivated vegetables, would form a very useful and interesting work.

Treowen, two miles to the west, another ancient mansion, was built after the plans of Inigo Jones; and though converted into a farm-house, still preserves traits of its ancient splendor and magnificence. The front is faced with hewn stone, and distinguished by a porch in the Anglo-Grecian style of architecture, which characterises most of the houses built by our English Palladio. This was the seat of the Jones family, descendants of the Herberts; which latter family was distinguished by its multifarious branches, under the names of Herbert, Powel, Jones, and Proger, who had seats in this part of the county, and whose estates are said to have extended from below Monmouth up to Ross.

Wonastow Court, situated upon a rising ground about a mile from Monmouth, in the reign of Elizabeth, was the seat of Sir Thomas Herbert, knight, great grandson of William Herbert, first earl of Pembroke; and continued to be long a residence of that

* M. S. Truman quoted, in Evans's Letters on South Wales, p. 184.

that branch of the family. The house, though greatly diminished from its original extent, is still an edifice of considerable size, and is an object worthy of notice, as a structure of ancient date; for it appears to have been erected as early as the time of Henry the Sixth. A few family portraits are preserved, and an excellent painting, by Romney, of the late Mrs. Swinnerton.

GRACE DIEU ABBEY, in the parish of *Lanvihangel Tavarnbach*, according to Dugdale, was a small monastery of the Cistercian order, founded by *John of Monmouth*, in the year 1229, and was destroyed by the Welsh, in 1233. It was, however, rebuilt; for at the Dissolution it contained two monks, and its annual revenues were valued at 26l. 1s. 4d. Leland describes it "an abbey of white monkes, standing in a wood, and having a rill running by hit*." The meadows here are some of the richest in the county, and the vicinity is covered with productive orchards, the apples of which yield an abundance of excellent cyder. The present remains of the abbey are insignificant as ruins, consisting of a building converted into a barn, in a dilapidated state, and a few fragments of mouldering walls.

LANDEILO CRESSENEY. In this parish are the magnificent ruins of WHITE CASTLE, which was called in old records *Lanteilo Castle*. This, with the fortresses of Scenfreth and Grosmont, were raised to defend the north-eastern part of the county, which, at the time of their erection, was denominated *Overwent*, and formed part of the possessions of Brian Fitz Count, Earl of Hereford, who came over to England with the Conqueror. They afterwards successively belonged to the Cantelupes and the Braoses; having been granted to the latter in the time of King John. Hubert de Burg next possessed them; but he, to appease the storm of court envy, which he feared would overwhelm him, consented to give them up with another, Hanfield, to King Henry

* Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 2.

Henry the Third, by whom they had been previously bestowed upon that haughty, but unfortunate favourite. Subsequent to this, they formed a parcel of the possessions annexed to the duchy of Lancaster, to which they still attach, and are demised to the Duke of Beaufort.

The present remains of White Castle, situated a mile and half north of the village of Landeilo, occupy the ridge of an eminence, and are surrounded by a deep foss or moat, 286 yards in circumference. The walls are of considerable thickness, and faced with hewn stone, of a brown colour. The figure is of an irregular oblong shape, resembling an oval. The works, which are partly straight and partly curvilinear, are strengthened with six round towers, standing without the walls, and were so contrived as to resist a siege, even after the loss of the inner court. "The principal entrance is towards the north: it consists of a gateway, which was defended by a portcullis and drawbridge, flanked by two high massive towers; there is another entrance to the south-west, on the opposite side *." Some vestiges of apartments may be seen; but the greater portion of the area is covered with grass and weeds, cropped by the cattle that find shelter here in hot or stormy weather. No appearance of windows can be found in the external walls, which are merely pierced with oiellets, for the shooting arrows at the besiegers. The length of the area is 145 feet, and the greatest breadth 106 †." Outside the foss, and before the principal entrance, are the remains of a barbacan, that formed a kind of tête du pont to the castle, with which it was connected. The walls of this out-work were very thick, flanked also by several towers, and encompassed by a deep foss. To the south are vestiges of other out-works; but obscured with brambles and briars. "The massive remains of this castle, the height of the towers‡, the extent of the out-works, the depth of

* Coxe's Hist. Tour, &c. p. 327. † Ibid.

‡ "The height of the most perfect tower is not less than 60 feet; the depth of the moat is from 14 to 18 feet, and the breadth from 40 to 70."

of the fossa, indicate a place of considerable strength and importance; which probably insured, for several ages, the dominion of this part of the country. From the style of the architecture, it appears to have been constructed either before the conquest, or at the latest, in the early times of the Norman era*." If, however, a comparison be made between the style and form of the building, including other circumstances attendant on this fortress, with those of other similar edifices at the early Norman period, all ideas of its Norman origin will vanish. And if it be compared again with the few specimens of military architecture among the Britons, still visible in Wales, the declivous site, the form, the massive circular towers, the absence of windows, and other points, will preponderate in favour of its being a British structure. The mutilated and imperfect state in which British history has hitherto been transmitted to us, has cast a veil of obscurity over this interesting subject: yet whoever will minutely view the ruins of Landeilo castle, and attentively weigh the arguments adduced by Mr. King, in his treatise on ancient castles, must be constrained to refer its erection to a period anterior to the Norman conquest. Numerous are the instances, where the antiquity of fortresses has merged in less antiquated description; and where those who repaired, improved, or added to such buildings have been erroneously stated as the original founders; and the transmutation of names has given facility to such anachronisms. The barbican is evidently a more recent work than the castle; and from its ante-mural square towers, is, with great probability, referred to the era in question. In ancient documents it is called *Castell Blaunch*, or Blanch, and *Whyt Castle*, and in Latin records, *Album Castrum*. Probably it had previously been denominated by the Welsh *Castell Gwyn*, of which White Castle is a literal interpretation. History appears to sanction this opinion. It is mentioned under the name of Castell Gwyn, when belonging to William de Braose, Lord of Abergavenny, who flourished



* Coxe's Hist. Tour, p. 328.

in the reign of Henry the Second: and this name it is said to have derived from *Sir Gwyn ap Gwaiddvoed*, or Gwaithvoed* its possessor at the time of the Norman invasion. On the banishment of the above-mentioned William Braose, Castell Gwyn was taken by the Welsh, and retaken from them again by the troops under Reginald his son; and the possession, confirmed to William Braose, son of Reginald, was afterwards seized by Henry the Third, and annexed, as previously noticed, to the duchy of Lancaster. After witnessing many of the struggles between the contentious parties under the two roses, it subsisted after their union; for it was not even demolished in the time of Henry the Eighth. Leland says, "This castle standeth on a hill, and is drye moted; it is made almost of great slate stone, and is the greatest of the three," that is this, Scenfreth, and Grosmont, both of which, in the reign of Elizabeth, are thus described by honest old Churchyard:—

"Three castles fayre are in a goodly ground,
Grosmont is one, on hill it builded was;
Skenfreth the next, in valley is it found,
The soil about for pleasure there doth passe.
*Whit Castle* is the third, of worthy fame,
The countrey there doth beare Whit Castle's name†,
A stately seate, a lofty princely place,
Whose beautie gives the simple soyles some grace‡."

Subsequent

* Gwaithvoed, Prince of Cardigan, by a right derived from his maternal descent, died in the year 1057. He left eight sons, of whom Cadwor Vawr, the eldest, was ancestor of the Morgans. His sixth son, Bach, was Lord of Scenfreth, and his seventh son was this Sir Gwyn ap Gwaithvoed: his arms were per pale gules and azure, a lion rampant, or, supporting a tree proper. From a manuscript in the possession of the Rev. Mr. Jones, of Pistill, as quoted by Mr. Coxe, in his Historical Tour, &c. note to p. 328.

† *Went*, a corruption of *Gwent*, is supposed to be derived not from gwyn, white; but from Gwyn, the prince of the country, as Morgannoc took the name from its prince, Morgan.

‡ Worthines of Wales, p. 20.

Subsequent to this its dilapidation must have been rapid; for in the reign of James the First it is presented as "ruinous, and in decay, time out of mind."

The CHURCH of Landeilo-Cresseney is a large handsome stone structure, in the pointed style, having its tower surmounted by a lofty spire, covered with shingles. The latter forms a striking object from every part of the surrounding country, and stands upon an artificial mound of earth, that forms part of an entrenched camp, extending into the pleasure grounds belonging to LANDEILO HOUSE, formerly the seat of the *Powels*, descendants of the Herberts, but now of *Richard Lewis, Esq.* by whose father, John Lewis, the present mansion, a handsome and convenient modern edifice, was erected.

About five miles to the north-east of *Lanvair*, in the road from Monmouth to Hereford, stands the small village of NEWCASTLE, which derives its name from some fortress once erected here, no traces of which remain, except a tumulus, surrounded by a foss, about 300 feet in circumference, and vestiges of entrenchments; but on its history, even tradition observes the most profound silence. Humble as this village is, the inhabitants attach considerable importance to the place. Men, naturally fond of consequence, where realities calculated to afford celebrity are wanting, never fail attempting to obtain it by imaginary peculiarities and ideal greatness; and for this they wander without themselves, endeavouring to extract it from their approximations to rank and fortune, or their contiguity to remarkable, singular, and interesting objects: a desire which is alike the source of vanity among the higher circles, as it is of the desire to propagate the marvellous among the lower classes; and while pride stretches out a fostering hand to the one, superstition proves a powerful auxiliary to the other. The *tumulus*, or barrow, at Newcastle, is supposed to be the haunt of troubled spirits, who come again, desirous of making retribution for the mischiefs

occasioned by the flagrancy of their past actions. And an ancient oak, of a remarkable size, is said to be the rendezvous of elfine spirits, who, beneath its patulous shade, wanton in their nocturnal revels. The tree is consequently considered as under the sacred protection of the fairy tribe:—

> And numerous ills await the wretched wight,
> Who dare these Hamadryads rouse to ire.

A variety of accidents and misfortunes are recounted to have happened to persons who, with profane touch, have ventured to shew their incredulity. The lower part of the trunk of this tree, which has given rise to as many legendary tales as Hearne's oak, in Windsor forest, mentioned by Shakespeare in his Merry Wives of Windsor, measures twenty-seven feet in girth; and the amazing extent of the boughs, and its pendulous, contorted, and convolute branches, give it a fantastic and interesting appearance. But it has long been hollow, and is fast going to decay; "one of the largest branches, broken off by a violent storm of wind, yielded fifteen car-loads of fire-wood *." Not only has the oak its fairies, and the tumulus its spirits, but a *ffynon vawr*, or sacred fountain, is also under miraculous protection. At the distance of about half a mile from the village, a spring, issuing from a wooded hill, forms a well, where issues a salutiferous stream, whose waters are infallible for the cure of most disorders, if the tradition of the neighbourhood be entitled to credit.

Scenfreth Castle, situated in the small village of *Scenfreth*, and which gives name to the hundred, is about three miles distant from Newcastle, to the north of the Monmouth road, and a little to the left of that leading from Abergavenny to Ross. This fortress has seldom been visited by travellers, from the sequestered spot, environed by hills, in which it stands on the banks of the Monnow; the difficulty of access by carriages

* Coxe's Hist. Tour, &c. p. 332.

riages or horses, from the intolerable state of the road, which, at times, is almost impassable, although subject to a turnpike toll; and also from the little notice which has been taken of it in historic records. Connected with Landeilo and Grosmont Castles, and subsequent to the Norman invasion, generally possessed by the same person, its name does not frequently occur; and its history merges in that of the former fortresses, becoming, with them, parcel of the duchy of Lancaster, to which it now belongs. This strong hold, destitute of outworks, and inconsiderable in size, is of the simplest construction; its area, forming a trapezium, is merely surrounded by a strong curtain wall, flanked with a circular tower at each angle, and one of inferior dimensions on the side facing the village. Mr. Coxe imagines there might have been an entrance near a mound of earth, visible on the north side. In the towers the apertures are merely oeillets for the discharge of arrows. Nearly in the centre of the area, which is 160 feet in length, by 174 in the broadest, and 84 in the narrowest part, stands, on a small artificial mount, another circular tower, but without the least appearance of its ever having had a foss or drawbridge; the entrance is broken away, but the remaining windows exhibit circular heads. The whole contour of this building indicates, that it must have been a British structure; for the style of architecture places it anterior to the Norman period; and it is probably the most ancient fortress in Monmouthshire. Scenfreth Castle was intended for the defence of the river, or to secure the defiles of the adjacent mountains. Bach, sixth son of Cadwer ap Gwaithvoed, or Cadivor Vawr, already noticed, is stated, by Enderbie, to have been Lord of Scenfreth, at the time of William the Conqueror's coming to the crown of England, and that it was wrested from the Welsh prince by the Norman chieftains. Its fate afterwards followed that of the castles of Landeilo and Grosmont. In the time of Henry the Eighth, Leland * describes it as nearly perfect; and

 supposes

* Itinerary, Vol. IV. p. 176.

supposes that the river formerly flowed round the walls. It was reported by an inquisition made in the time of James the First, as "ruinous and decayed time out of the memory of man."

Proceeding up the rich romantic valley, which winds along the south side of the meandering and murmuring Monnow, the traveller arrives at GROSMONT. The country between Scenfreth and this place is exceedingly romantic. "The continuance of our journey to Grosmont," observes a respectable tourist, "wandering in an irriguous valley, among bye lanes, that were scarcely passable, although it proved very tedious in travelling, afforded us a succession of the most pleasing retired scenes imaginable. On our right, a diversity of swells and hollows, variously clad in wild woods, or cultivation, extended throughout our ride, where the lively and transparent Monnow, illumined by

"The noon-tide beam,
Which sparkling dances on the trembling stream,"

serpentized its current in endless variety. Immediately on our left, the Graig, a huge solitary mountain, reared its towering sides from the lowlands, in uncontended majesty, and accompanied our road to the pleasing little village of GROSMONT *." Though at present an assemblage of small cottages, this place was formerly of more importance; and what is singular, is at present governed by a mayor and burgesses. According to tradition, it once formed a town of considerable extent, and enjoyed the privilege of a market, which was usually held at the foot of the Graig. This is rendered probable by the numerous causeways, which, raised high, still diverge from it in different directions, and though much dilapidated, are at present in many places from nine to twelve feet broad. These are formed of very large stones, laid one over another; and in the memory of some of the inhabitants, other roads of a similar construction existed, which have

* Barber's Tour throughout South Wales and Monmouthshire, p. 294.

have been demolished for the sake of the materials. It is thought that these were streets, flanked with numerous houses, in the flourishing state of Grosmont.

The *Church* bespeaks the former consequence of the place; for it is a large handsome structure, in the pointed style, with an *octagonal* tower; a singular thing for this part of the country. The body of the church is built after the cathedral fashion, in form of a Roman cross, consisting of a nave, with two ailes, a transept, and a chancel. But what this village has chiefly to boast, is the fine ruin of its ancient and famous CASTLE. The history of this fortress, subsequent to the Norman conquest, is principally comprised in those of Landeilo and Scenfreth, excepting two events, particularly connected with it, in the reign of Henry the Third. It was invested by the Welsh troops, under the command of Prince Llewelyn; but before he could take it, "the king came," says Lambarde, "with a great army, to raise the siege, whereof as sone as the Welshman had understandinge, they saved their lives by their legges*." In a subsequent expedition, which the king undertook to chastise the insolence of Richard Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, who, to avoid the king's resentment, had put himself under the protection of Llewelyn, the Welsh succeeded in cutting off the provisions of the royal army, and obliged the king to retreat to Grosmont, and encamp his army in the vicinity of the castle. While waiting here for supplies, a party of the enemy's cavalry, by a rapid movement, surprised the royal troops while asleep in the trenches, and carried off much booty, viz. five hundred horses, many waggons loaded with baggage, provisions, &c. and much treasure. Grosmont Castle seems to have been a favourite residence of the Earls of Lancaster; and Henry, grandson of Edmund Crouchback, was surnamed *Grismont*, or Grosmont, from having been born at this place.

The state of the building is thus described by Leland, in the



* Topographical Dictionary.

time of Henry the Eighth. "The castle of Grossemount standeth a 3 miles above Skenfrith, on the right hand of *Mone, secundum decursum fluvii,* halfe a mile from the ripe. It standeth strongly on a rocke, or hill, drye ditched, and a villagae of the same name by it. Most part of the castle walls yet stand*." In the reign of James the First, it was described, by a jury, to be in a dilapidated state.

The present ruins occupy the summit of a swelling eminence near the village, on the south bank of the river Monnow. The pile is not large, but the remains are well disposed as a ruin; and the fragments of ivy-clad walls, accompanied by numerous shrubs, and the parts impending over the precipitous banks of the river, tufted with a grove of wide-spreading oaks, give the whole a picturesque and interesting appearance. The form of the structure is irregular, which appears to have arisen from the various additions made at different times to the original building, particularly while it was a residence of the Lancastrian earls; and considerable remains exhibit the style of architecture prevalent at that period. The present ruins stand on a ridge above the moat, which includes an area of about 110 feet in length, by 70 in breadth. The principal entrance to it is by a gateway, with a pointed arch; and the remaining doorways and windows, the forms of which can be traced, are of a similar style. On the right of the chief entrance, is a spacious apartment, measuring eighty feet by twenty-seven, having three windows on one side, and two at each end: this was probably the grand baronial hall. But from some portions of circular massive towers, and other foundations, it is conjectured this fortress was nearly coeval with that of Scenfreth; though Mr. Coxe thinks, "the whole appearance of the remains fully proves, that it was constructed at an era much posterior to Scenfreth and White Castles†." The main building was strengthened by various outworks to the south-east, of which some vestiges of the barbican may yet be traced, and of entrenchments to the south.

JOHN

* Itinerary, Vol. IV. p. 176. b. † Hist. Tour, &c. p. 334.

JOHN OF KENT, the hero of this part of the country, is supposed to have been either a native, or nearly connected with the interests of this place. A series of extraordinary tales, respecting him, are uniformly in the mouths of old and young, and serve to beguile the winter evenings of the village inhabitants. But it would be irksome to recount the strange achievements of this Monmouth necromancer; a thousand reputed instances are adduced of his magical skill and supernatural power, which would far eclipse, in wonderful fame, the exploits of Baron Munchausen. A service which he performed for the benefit of this district, for, according to legendary story, the devil can become a benefactor at times, will ever endear his memory among the inhabitants of Grosmont. This was constructing the bridge over the Monnow, by his demoniacal agency, in one night. It is still called John of Kent's Bridge. The tradition states, that he was a domestic in the family of Scudamore, who then resided at Kentchurch House, in the adjoining parish of Kentchurch, on the Herefordshire side of the river, which station became the scene of his marvellous feats; and a cellar is still shewn there as the stable where his horses were kept, steeds of no mean celebrity, of more than Pegasean pedigree; for they could not only outstrip the wind, but traverse the air with a speed only to be equalled by Lapland witches. Like Dr. Faustus, to obtain these astonishing gifts and abilities, he made a league with the devil; but more wary than the doctor in drawing up the form of the compact, he outwitted his Satanic majesty, by evading the terms of the covenant. Having sold the reversionary interest of both body and soul, if buried within or without the church, he escaped the consequence of such stipulation, by being interred *under the church wall*. And an old tomb-stone, in the church-yard of Grosmont, near the east wall of the chancel, without any inscription, is shewn as his monument*.

Much

* A prevailing tradition is, that an old wizard, disguised in a shepherd's habit, once frequented Kentchurch House, and roamed about the neighbourhood of Grosmont. His remains are said to be buried under the stone called

Much doubt has been entertained, who or what this extaordinary and mysterious person was. Some have supposed that he was a bard of Owen Glyndwr, who, after the complete defeat of that formidable chieftain, accompanied him in his flight, and took refuge with the Cambrian hero under the roof of his son-in-law, Scudamore, at Kentchurch House. Others, with more probability, suppose he was the John of Kent, *Gwent*, or *Went*, a Franciscan friar, thus mentioned by Leland. " He was bred in Wales, and so ardently followed the most celebrated schools of the Franciscans at Oxford, and made such improvements in profound learning, that he was the wonder of all his religious brethren*." According to the Antiquities of the English Franciscans, he was provincial minister of that order in England; wrote many pious and learned works, and died in 1348; and it is recorded of him, in the catalogue of the provincial ministers, that " brother John Went, doctor of Oxford, who wrought miracles in his life-time, lies at Hereford." A Latin translation of the Bible, on vellum, either made or copied by him, was in possession of the family at Kentchurch; but has long been mislaid or lost. His portrait, painted in oil, is still preserved, from which an engraving has been made, and re-engraved for Mr. Coxe's Tour.

The learned author of the Welsh Dictionary, Mr. William Owen, differs in opinion from most writers on this subject. " John of Kent," he observes, " was a favourite poet among the Welsh; and there is scarcely a Welsh MS. which does not contain some of his pieces. He may be classed likewise among the early and eminent Lollards, as his writings are filled with doctrines hostile

called John of Kent's tomb. This person was probably Owen Glyndwr, who is reported to have taken shelter at the house of his son-in-law; but who, at that period, is stated to have resided at Mornington. After his defeat, he is known to have escaped, habited as a shepherd, and he might have retired to this sequestered spot, and been privately interred here, though his body might have been afterwards removed, or a cenotaph erected to his memory in another place.

* De Scriptoribus Britannicis, p. 376.

hostile to the Roman Catholic religion. His boldness, in consigning such opinions to writing, would have exposed him to great danger, had he used a language more easily understood. It is difficult to give a catalogue of all his works." Mr. Owen, however, enumerates, from the index of manuscripts belonging to the Welsh School, thirty-nine treatises upon various subjects, and supposes the author flourished between the years 1360 and 1430. But the bard and the conjuror, the poet and the philosopher, are distinct characters; the talents calculated to form each are essentially different, and rarely to be found united in the same person. Probability favours the opinion, that the poetical John of *Gwent*, and the mathematical John of *Kent*, were different persons, who, living in the same age, and being both distinguished for their attainments, were easily confounded in the mingling repertory of ancient tradition.

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## ABERGAVENNY HUNDRED

Comprises a highly diversified tract of country, where hills and vallies, rivers and streams, display an endless variety of features; and exhibit to the traveller, almost at every turn, the delightful contrasts of picturesque wildness and luxuriant fertility. Bounded on the north by Herefordshire, it participates in the richness of that fruitful county; and on the west, by the county of Brecon, it assimilates with the abrupt character of that rugged district; on the south and south-west it comprises a portion of the mining country, which, while it adds to the diversity, tends to increase the wealth of the province. This hundred is watered by the rivers Monnow, Usk, and Gavenny, with numerous minor streams, and though an alpine district, abounding in sublime scenery,

can

can be equalled by few in the goodness of the soil, or the value of its productions.

The HIGHER DIVISION contains the parishes of *Aberystwith, Goytre, Lanellen, Lanfoist, Langattock, Lanhileth,* or *Lanhyddel, Lanover* Higher, *Lanover* Lower, *Lansanfread, Lanvais-Kilgidden, Lanvihangel, Lanwenarth* Ultra, *Mamhilad, Trevethin** Churchside and Poolside. In the LOWER DIVISION† is the town of *Abergavenny,* including the hamlets of *Hardwick* and *Loyndee;* and the parishes of *Cwmyoy* Upper, *Cwmyoy* Lower, *Lanarth, Langattock Lingoed, Lanthewy*-Rytherch, *Lanthewy*-Skirrid, *Lantillio-Pertholey* Ultra et Citra, *Lanvapley Lanvetherine, Lanvihangel* Crucorney, *Lanwenarth* Citra, and *Old Castle.*

At the distance of three miles from LANGWA‡, where was an alien *Priory* of black monks, a cell to the abbey of Lira in Normandy, is the site of the ancient fortified encampment, called *Campston Hill.* From Roman coins having been dug up here, Harris hastily concluded it to have been formed by the Romans; but no lines of circumvallation are now traceable to confirm or refute such conjecture. The summit of the hill is a level plain, excavated almost entirely over by digging for stone. Campston House, occupied by a farmer, is reported to have once afforded an asylum to Charles the First, when that unfortunate monarch was endeavouring to regain the alienated affections of his disloyal subjects; but in the Iter Carolum, which decribes his progress, it is only observed, that he dined there.

Here

* The town of Pontypool is in this parish.

† The overseers of the parish of Old Castle, in their return of Poor, &c. to parliament, remark, that "notwithstanding this division contains the second town in the county, and many parishes and hamlets, not any magistrate has resided in it during the last eighteen months."

‡ Tanner calls it Lankywan, or Langwyn.

Here commences the mountainous tract of country, which skirting Herefordshire on the north, and the town of Abergavenny on the south, extends into Brecknockshire, and terminates in Caermarthenshire. A chain of mountains would be an inaccurate description of the elevations of this district: they consist of an alpine concatenation of contracted and extended chains, isolated mountains, sharp ridges, and abrupt crags. The great mountainous line from the north on the frontiers of Herefordshire, and from the north-west, out of Brecknockshire, extends southward to Abergavenny; and the lofty hill, called the *Gaer*, at the entrance of Monmouthshire, from the north-west, forms the centre. From the foot of the Gaer ascends an oblong-shaped, barren mountain, named the *Brynaro;* opposite to which, on the eastern side of the road, rises the Skyrrid-vawr, with its bifurcated summit, accompanied by the Skyrrid-vach. To the south of the Brynaro, overlooking the town of Abergavenny, are the *Derry* and *Rolben* hills, separated only by a narrow dingle: to these succeed the hills of Lanwenarth, which form a natural terrace, terminated by craig Lanwenarth, and surmounted by the conical hill, from its shape denominated the *Sugar-loaf*. To the north of the Brynaro stretches, in a north-westerly direction, the mass of dark-looking heath-clad hills, denominated, from their gloomy appearance, the *Black Mountains*, and the Hatterel Hills, separated from the Gaer and an elevated tract of the Fothog, by the river Honddy. On the side of one of these is the village of

Old-Castle, where Gale and Stukeley fix the Roman station, *Blestium*, of the Itinerary. Near the church are slight vestiges of circular entrenchments; but from these no clue can be formed to ascertain the era of their construction. This and several other encampments in the vicinity, of which traces yet remain, were probably formed by the Romans to defend the road between the two stations, Gobannium and Magna, Abergavenny and Kenchester; as the road ran in this direction, passing by Oldcastle, from Lanvihangel to Longtown.

Oldcastle

Oldcastle is famous for giving birth to that eminent, early ecclesiastical reformer, the abettor of Wickliffe, and defender of the persecuted Lollards, SIR JOHN OLDCASTLE, LORD COBHAM. He was styled by Horace Walpole, " the first author, as well as the first martyr, among our nobility." His early youth, and some portion of his matured life, prognosticated little, either of the good or the great. The companion of prince Henry, afterwards King Henry the Fifth, he manifested the same dissolute turn, and displayed similar traits of abandoned character to those exhibited by the prince. But on his royal associate ascending the throne, and having made the resolution which has been previously noticed, to discard such of his companions as should persist in their vicious course of life, Sir John, with a few others, were induced to reflect on and correct their past conduct. In him reflection produced conviction of error, and, like his master, he was aroused to a sense of virtue and religion. A man of great talents and high spirit, and having embraced the reformed principles of religious doctrine denominated Lollardism, his zeal was ardent and conspicous; but in the heat of opposing intolerancy, he on some occasions betrayed an intolerant spirit in himself, which brought down upon him the persecuting vengeance of the hierarchy, and outraged even the liberal mind of the monarch so far, as to induce him to refuse the shield of royal protection. Cobham was accused of heresy, convicted, condemned, and executed. At the stake he manifested that courage for which, during his whole life, he had been so eminent; and was doubtless confirmed by a consciousness of innocence, and a persuasion of truth. Walsingham, and others, have related a singular instance of enthusiasm, which he evinced in his dying moments, viz. requesting, if he should rise from the dead, like the Saviour, on the third day, that a general amnesty and toleration should be granted to the Lollards. But his natural powers, the principles he had espoused, the doctrines he professed, and his dying intrepidity, all combine to refute such a stigma; and to shew that the darkness of the colouring betrays the pencil of an enemy. His martyrdom

martyrdom forms an eminent epoch in the English church; for the Reformation, like a phœnix, sprung from his ashes.

In the deep recesses of the Black Mountains is the narrow secluded *Vale of Ewias*, through which, variously meandering, flows the river Honddy. As the vale is inaccessible to carriages, it has had few visitors comparatively with other parts of the county. The approach to it is not difficult on horseback; but its romantic beauties appear with the most advantage to the pedestrian traveller, who, leaving the hollow road, traverses the fields above the precipitous and rugged banks of the Honddy. This singular and celebrated spot is described by Gyraldus Cambrensis, as it appeared to him in the twelfth century. "A deep valley, quiet for contemplation, and retired for conversation with the Almighty: here the sorrowful complaints of the oppressed do not disquiet, or the mad contentions of the froward do not disturb; but a calm peace and perfect charity invite to holy religion. But why do I describe the situation of the place, when all things are so much changed since the pristine establishment? The broken rocks were traversed by herds of wild and swift-footed animals*: these rocks surrounded and darkened the valley; for they were crowned with tall towering trees, which yielded a delightful prospect at a great distance to all beholders, both by sea and land. The middle of the valley, although clothed with wood, and sunk into a narrow and deep abyss, was sometimes disturbed by a strong blighting wind, and at other times obscured with dark clouds and violent rains, inconmoded with severe frosts, or heaped up with snow, whilst in other places there was a mild and gentle air. The large and plentiful springs from the neighbouring mountains, fell with a pleasant murmur into a river in the midst of the valley, abounding with fish. Sometimes,

* These were deer and goats. The former, in a wild state, once abounded in Wales. In the laws of Hoel Dha, prices were put upon various animals, for the purposes of justice; and a *roebuck* was valued at the same sum as a she-goat. Leges Wallicæ, 258.

Sometimes, after great rains, which were extremely frequent, the floods, impatient of constraint, inundated the neighbouring places, overturning rocks and tearing up trees by the roots. These spacious mountains, however, contained fruitful pastures, and rich meadows for feeding cattle, which compensated for the barrenness of other parts, and made amends for the want of corn. The air, though thick, was healthful, and preserved the inhabitants to an extreme old age; but the people were savage, without religion, vagabonds, and addicted to stealth: they had no settled abode, and removed as wind and weather inclined them *."

In this natural amphitheatre, surrounded by bleak and lofty mountains, which seem to exclude all intercourse with the world, are the ruins of the once large celebrated monastery of

LLANTHONY ABBEY. It was called by the inhabitants *Llan*†-*Devi-Nant-Honddy*, that is, St. David's Church, in the vale of the Honddy. Leland observes, "*Nanthonddye*, a priori of blake chanons, standith in the vale of Ewias, xiiii miles from Brekenok. But it is another Honddye then that, that cummith to Brekenok. This priori was fair, and stood betwixt ii great hilles‡". Respecting the time of its erection, and the original founders, some confusion has arisen, from the contradictory accounts given by different writers upon the subject.

"Among the Hatterell Hills, which rising like a chair, are called Munith Cader, stands the ancient abbey of Lanthony, founded by Walter Lacy, to whom William, Earl of Hereford, gave

* Iter Cambriæ.

† *Llan*, in British, signifies an inclosure. In composition, and when postfixed to another word, it is written with a single L: as Perlan, an orchard; Corlan, a sheepfold; and having been particularly applied to places appropriated for sacred uses, it denotes, through this part of the kingdom, a church or chapel.

‡ Itin. Vol. V. p. 69.

gave lands here; and from whom descended the Lacies, who figured among the first conquerors of Ireland*."

Another writer asserts, that this abbey was founded by Ervistus, a priest, and William, a soldier, who were retainers of Henry Lacy, Earl of Hereford. These two became hermits, and determined to lead a life of seclusion and austerity. They at first would take only a benevolence of their patron to erect a small church, which they commenced in the year 1108; but afterwards, Ervistus, influenced by the advice of Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury, persuaded his companion to convert their asylum, by the generous assistance of benefactors, into a convent for regular canons of the Augustine order.

The following particulars are derived from an account of the foundation and history of the abbey†; and from the observations of Gyraldus Cambrensis. The uncle of King Arthur, St. David, the titular saint of Wales, seceding from the cares and bustle of the world, chose this wild and secluded spot as the scene of his devotional retirement. Here he built a small chapel and hermitage; but subsequent to his death the cell was untenanted, and the place unfrequented for centuries. In the time of William Rufus, Hugh de Laci, a Norman baron, in the course of hunting, pursued the deer into this valley; and whilst resting himself after the fatigues of the chase with his companions in the hunt, William, one of his retainers, discovering the ruined chapel of St. David, suddenly experienced an enthusiastic desire to lead a religious life; and strongly impressed with the wildness of the scenery and sanctity of the place, quitted his military career, and here devoted his future life to the service of God.

After he had passed a few years in this solitude, and obtained devotional celebrity, *Ernesi*, chaplain to Maud, consort of King Henry the First, was induced to join William as an associate in

 retirement.

* Britannia. Gough's edit. Vol. II. p. 477.

† It is published in Dugdale's Monasticon, and a translation is given in Atkyn's History of Gloucestershire.

retirement. By their combined efforts a small chapel was erected, and consecrated by Urban, the diocesan, and Rameline, bishop of Hereford, in the year1108, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist. At the request of Ernesi, soon after, Hugh de Laci, earl of Hereford, founded a priory for regular canons of the Augustine order, dedicated it to the same saint as the chapel had previously been, and Ernesi became the prior. Henry the First and his queen were benefactors; and thus patronized, the new monastery quickly was famed for extraordinary sanctity, and both donations and bequests rapidly multiplied. At first, the numerous offers were rejected by the prior and his pious brethren, with the declaration, that they had determined to die poor in the house of God. But this reluctance having been overcome by the intreaties of Queen Maud, extensive buildings were erected, and the conventual church constructed, which Gyraldus describes as a good building, having the roof vaulted with stone, and covered with lead. The prosperity of the establishment, however, was but of short duration. On the death of Henry the First, the wars between Stephen and the Empress Maud extended their baleful influence even to this sequestered spot: the monks were grossly insulted and pillaged by the Welsh, who seized the opportunity of manifesting their inveterate hatred for the English. In this distress, the monks applied to their prior, who at that time was Robert de Betune, bishop of Hereford; he compassionating their sufferings, by the assistance of Melo de Laci, and his own liberal donations, enabled them to erect a new monastery at a place called Hyde, near Gloucester; which was consecrated by the bishops of Worcester and Hereford, in the year 1136. This, after the original house, was called LANTHONY, which name the ruins still bear. The new monastery was at first allowed only as a cell to the one in the Vale of Ewias; but having been endowed with large possessions by Melo and King John, soon arose into celebrity and splendour. Delighted with their new and luxuriant situation, the monks forgot their seat in the mountains; and not only refused to return, as stipulated in their engagements,

ments, but demanded for the subsequent establishment pre-eminence of rank over the mother church. The latter was pillaged and stripped of its valuables to enrich the former, and converted into a house of correction for their refractory monks. This desolated state of the abbey in the Vale of Ewias, it is said, induced Edward the Fourth to unite the two monasteries by charter*, making at the same time the one at Gloucester, the abbey, and the other, a cell to it; and obliged the monks of the principal house to maintain a residentiary prior and four canons. It has, however, been a subject of doubt with some writers, whether this union was ever effected; and this dubiosity is supported by the fact, that the annual revenues at the Dissolution were separately valued: the one near Gloucester at 648l. 19s. 11d.; and this in Monmouthshire at 71l. 3s. 2d., according to Dugdale; but according to Speed's estimate, the former at 748l. 0s. 11¼d. the latter at 112l. 1s. 5d. The site was granted to Richard Arnold, and came into the possession of the Oxford family, by Auditor Harley having purchased it of the grantee: it is at present the property of Walter Lander, Esq.

Little now remains of this ancient monastery but the ruins of its conventual church. In the additions to Gough's Camden, it is stated, that the present edifice is not the original church belonging to the abbey, but of later date. The church, however, was evidently constructed soon after the introduction of the pointed style, and previous to its general adoption; for both that and the circular are exemplified in this structure, and appear to have entered into the original plan. It was built cruciform, like a cathedral, and though not upon the grandest scale, was admirably proportioned. "The length, from the western door to the eastern extremity, is 212 feet; and the breadth, including the two ailes, 50; the length of the transept, from north to south, 100*." The whole building is in a very dilapidated state, and



* See Beauties, Vol. V. p. 565.

† Coxe's Hist. Tour, 211.

the roof entirely fallen in. The choir is entirely down, except a small part of the north wall, and a fragment of the south, containing a circular-headed doorway, leading into a side aile. In the centre rose a handsome square massy tower, supported by four bold pointed arches, opening into the choir, nave, and transepts. Of this, two sides only remain, the windows of which have circular heads. The wall of the south aile is completely down. To the south of the transept is a small chapel in the pointed style, with a groined roof; and beyond this an oblong room, which was probably the chapter-house. The nave constitutes the principal part of the ruin: it was separated from the collateral ailes by eight pointed arches on a side, resting on simply-constructed columns. Above a straight fascia was another tier of circular arches. Various remains of fragments of broken walls and foundations are still traceable in the vicinity; and a fine arch, in a building used as a barn, to the west of the church, probably once formed an entrance gateway to the abbey. The character of this ruin consists in the great and solid, as that of Tintern Abbey does in the light and beautiful; but these present a different appearance from most other ruins of this description. No clinging tendrils of ivy cover its massy fragments, no aged yews add gloom to its venerability; the few plants and shrubs which spring from the crevices, or fringe the margin of its walls, tend to conceal no part of the building: naked and grand, it partakes of the character of the surrounding scenery. The brown and yellow tints imparted by time to the originally grey-coloured stone, produce a pleasing effect. The breadth of the massive tower, the jagged angles of the tottering walls, relieved by the mountainous scenery in the back grounds, aided by the contrasted dreariness of the vale in which it stands, give the whole a character of magnificent simplicity.

The ruins of this venerable abbey, with the grand natural features of the surrounding hills, have conspired to render this spot peculiarly attractive and interesting to artists, and to tourists in general. Its artificial beauties, however, are nearly destroyed; as the

the present proprietor of the estate has directed many alterations to be made in the ruins, and fitted up some parts for habitation *.

On the right of the road, proceeding from Lanthony towards Abergavenny, in one of those attractive little vallies, which open into the vale of the Usk, and form conductors of the mountain torrents, at a small distance from the *Gruny*, rises a hill called the *Gaer*†; an acclivous, rugged, stony road, winds up to the summit, which is crowned with an ancient *encampment*. Near it is a Roman road, which led from Abergavenny to another and larger fortified post, denominated the Gaer, near Brecknock, which Strange and Harris supposed was the station *Magna*, in the Itinerary of Antoninus.

About four miles south-east of the Gaer is

LANVIHANGLE CRUCORNEY, or properly *Crucornwy;* in the vicinity of which is an old mansion, formerly the seat of the Arnolds, one of whom sold it to Auditor Harley, and is at present the property of the Earl of Oxford. The house is occupied by a farmer, and contains only some antiquated furniture and a few family pictures; but the surrounding groves of venerable oaks, and wide-spreading Spanish chesnuts, with the noble avenues of Scotch firs, supposed to be the largest and finest in South Britain, are well worthy the traveller's notice; as is also the peculiarly fine effect produced by the gaping mountain, called the SKYRRID-VAWR, situated a small distance from the house. This mountain, which is in the parish of Landewi Skyrrid, is a singular geological phœnomenon. It is isolated, rising abruptly

 from

* In Hearne and Byrne's Antiquities are two fine views of the ruins of the Abbey Church; and in the present volume is a view of the Tower, &c. from a sketch by Dayes.

† *Caer*, pronounced *Gaer*, in British, signifies a fortified place; and figuratively, a city. Many places in Wales, and four in this county, are distinguished by that appellation.

from the plain: the north-eastern side is a ridge, of a barren russet hue; towards the south the declivity is less; and towards the bottom terminates in a gentle cultivated slope. The base is ornamented with wood, and enriched with luxuriant corn-fields and pastures; which form a gratifying contrast to the brown and dark aspect of its summit, covered with heath and ling. Seen in different directions, it assumes a variety of forms: from one point it seems like a large long barrow; from another it appears globular; from others like a truncated cone. The north-eastern extremity is the highest part of the mountain; and its height, according to the barometrical admeasurement of General Roy, is 1498 feet. On this spot formerly stood a small chapel, the site of which is traceable in a circular hollow; but no vestiges of the building remains. The chapel was dedicated to St. Michael, whence the hill is denominated *St. Michael's Mount*. It is at times the scene of superstitious folly. The catholic, and ignorant persons among the lower classes, annually repair, on Michaelmas Eve, to pay their devoirs to the saint, and still consider the soil as sacred; quantities of which they carry away to strew over the coffins and graves of their deceased friends. Formerly it was considered as endued with miraculous efficacy for the curing of certain diseases; but the age of such gross blindness, it is hoped, for ever is past. The view from the summit is extensive, and peculiarly grand and diversified, embracing a vast expanse of country. But the most remarkable circumstance attendant on this mountain is, that whence it derives the appellation of *Skyrrid-vawr**, the great *rent* or *fracture*. By some convulsion, or plastic process of nature, a crack has been made, which divides the mountain into two unequal parts. The fissure presents itself to the beholder from the west or north-west, like an enormous chasm, separating two mountains, whose jagged sides and craggy impending summits seem to vie

* Some have supposed the name to be a corruption of the British word *ysgyrid*, rough; but its more probable derivation is from *ysgyrraed*, i. e. separations or fissures, from the verb *ysgar*, to separate, divide, &c.

vie in height, and to stand as rivals for rugged beauty, " bibartite, like Parnassus." The bottom of the chasm, which is near three hundred feet in breadth, is strewed with huge fragments of rock, broken, it is supposed, by the tremendous crash. The rude side of the larger portion rises perpendicular, like a wall, to a great and dizzy height; and the opposite portion is equally perpendicular, but less elevated: the western side of this crag is completely overhung with underwood, which forms a pleasing contrast with the bare and broken surface of the parent mountain. Various have been the conjectures respecting the cause of this horrid yawning chasm. Ignorance, ever ready to cut the knot it is unable to untie; and credulity, as ready to credit the surmises of superstition, have trumped up the legendary story, that the mountain was rent asunder by the earthquake which happened at the crucifixion of the Saviour: hence it has obtained the appellation of *Holy Mount*, a name under which it is best known among the inhabitants of the county. Speaking of the smaller division, Mr. Coxe observes, " At some distance it appears like an enormous fragment, separated from the mountain. Its shape, and the strata of the rock, resemble that part of the Skyrrid from which it seems to have been detached; but a nearer view convinced me, that it never could have fallen from the summit. Many similar fissures I observed in the Alps, and they are common in mountainous regions. The frequent springs, oozing through the interstices of the rocks, undermine the foundation; and the vast masses, thus deprived of support, either sink, or are separated from each other, till by degrees great chasms are formed, and the mountain seems to have been rent asunder*."

A doubt cannot be entertained, that great alterations have taken place on the terraqueous globe, subsequent to its formation, by means of water; and that even fractures in mountains have been occasioned, and dislocations of their parts resulted, from the agency of this powerful element. By its various capacities of impetus



* Hist. Tour, p. 200.

and expansion, multifarious are the phenomena produced, which in ages of ignorance were attributed to infernal interference; and in times less enlightened than the present, have been subjects of superstitious consternation. To this is attributable the removal of the immense stones from a meadow, called the Wergins *, in the year 1652; the progression of Marcley Hill, in 1569†; and the attempt at embarkation made by a farm, called Pitlands, in the Isle of Wight, in the year 1799‡. These, called *landslips* in England, are occasioned by sudden frosts and thaws, or great accumulations of water. In Wales they more frequently happen, and to a greater extent. "A phenomenon, called *Doear dorr*, or rending of the earth, is frequent amid these mountains. It is occasioned by quantities of water, collected during the rainy season, in cavities on the sides of the mountains; this collection, in time, becomes so considerable, as to burst through the surface or shell, and carries fragments of rocks, &c. into the vale below. By this large hillocks are removed from their place, and sometimes havodtys swept away. This is observed to happen during *thunder storms* §".

But these phenomena are very different from the *Skyrrid Vawr;* as the effects are dissimilar, the causes cannot be the same. Such geological eccentricities must be referred to that grand and interesting period, when the globe, disrupted, dashed in pieces, and overwhelmed by the waters of the deluge, had its shattered parts replaced, its scattered particles, mixed in the powerful solvent,

* "Between Sutton and Hereford, in a common meadow, called the Wergins, where were placed two large stones for a water mark, one erected upright, and the other laid athwart. In the civil wars, about the year 1652, they were removed to about twelve score paces distance, and nobody knew how; which gave occasion to a common opinion, that they were carried thither by the devil. When they were set in their places again, one of them required nine yoke of oxen to draw it."—Tour through the whole Island of Great Britain, Vol. II. Letter 3. p. 75.

† See Beauties, Vol. VI. p. 591. ‡ See Beauties, Vol. VI. p. 400.

§ Evans's Letters, written during a Tour through North Wales, p. 199.

vent, collected and reunited, and by the power of adhesion and compression, it experienced a complete re-formation. On the subsidence of the waters, when the exhaling power of the sun began to act upon the mountainous accumulations of slimy matter, the sudden rarefaction and expansion of the aqueous particles would occasion numerous rents and fissures, in figure and magnitude proportionate to the influence of the exhaling power, and the collateral difference of adhesive attraction in the adjacent parts. Fissures, thus produced on a minute scale, are obvious every day; and such apparently was the cause which effected the Skyrrid Vawr.

The SKYRRID VACH, or *Little Skyrrid*, is a beautiful swelling hill, rising to the height of 765 feet, richly luxuriant in wood and pasture; and from the form, and the fertility of its appearance, it finely contrasts with the russet hue, rugged aspect, and craggy ridge of the Skyrrid Vawr. To the south it opens to a fine display of the rich and delightful vale of Usk, bounded by the vast expanse of the Bristol Channel. The views from the Great Skyrrid, and other mountains, are more extensive and sublime; but the scenes from this are the most delightful of any in Monmouthshire.

> "Skyrrid! rememb'rance thy lov'd scene renews;
> Fancy yet lingering on thy verdant brow,
> Beholds around the lengthen'd landscape glow;
> Which charm'd, when late the day-beams' parting hues
> Purpled the distant cliff."

About five miles to the west, directly opposite the Skyrrids, are the *Llanwenarth*, or *Pen-y-Vale Hills*. These are four eminences, which appear at a distance to be separate mountains, but on a nearer view they are found to be connected, and only intersected by narrow dingles, down which small streams hurry their waters to the Usk. Each has a distinct appellation, the Derry, the Rolben, Graig Llanwenarth, and Llanwenarth Hill.

Upon

Upon the extensive base of these stands *Pen-y-vale**, from its shape denominated the *Sugar-loaf*, a conical eminence arising from the summit of the ridge, which from some points appears globular, but on the eastern side assumes the figure of a pyramid; and when capped with clouds, looks not unlike the crater of a volcano. The height of this elevated point is 1852 feet perpendicular, from the level taken by General Roy, at the mouth of the Gavenny. Notwithstanding this height, the mountain, Mr. Coxe observes, is accessible without much fatigue or difficulty: and he recommends travellers, who wish to obtain the grand and lovely prospect from its summit, to ascend by the Derry from the Hereford road, and to descend on the side of the Rolben. "The sides of the mountain are covered with heath, whortle-berries, and moss, to the height of a foot, which renders the ascent so extremely easy, that a light carriage might be driven to the base of the cone, not more than one hundred paces from the summit. I dismounted near a rock which emerges from the side of the ridge, forming a natural wall, and reached the top without the smallest difficulty. This elevated point, which crowns the summit of the four hills, is an insulated ridge, about a quarter of a mile in length, and two hundred yards in breadth, with broken crags starting up amid the moss and heath with which it is covered. The view from this point is magnificent, extensive, and diversified. It commands the counties of Radnor, Salop, Brecknock, Monmouth, Glamorgan, Hereford, Worcester, Gloucester, Somerset, and Wilts†."

Here, toward the south, the mountains, which gradually swell-

* *Pen-y-foel*, of which Pen-y-vale is supposed a corruption, signifies the *barren top*. Mr. Owen observes, that *val*, out of construction, would be *bal*, the common term for a *sugar-loaf*. But with due deference to such an authority, might it not have been *pen-y-valch*, the *superior eminence*, which the English, unable to pronounce the Welsh gutteral sound of *ch*, would naturally call Pen-y-val. The name was given long before sugar-loaves were probably known.

† Coxe's Hist. Tour, p. 195.

ing from the vale on some sides, and abruptly on others, uniting the extremes of wildness and fertility, and interesting from their contrasted forms and diversity of appearance, seem suddenly to terminate; and their expansive bases approximating, descend to a finely wooded country. In this delightful spot, where the Gavenny flows into the Usk, stands the town of

## ABERGAVENNY,

which occupies a gentle slope at the foot of the Derry, on the north bank of the Usk, where that river is joined by the Gavenny, which skirts the eastern side of the town; and from this confluence the name is derived*. This place was the site of the Roman station *Gobannium* of Antoninus, which appears to have stood on the same side of the river. The similarity of the ancient and modern names†, the discovery of various Roman antiquities, and the agreement of the several distances from Burrium, Usk; Magna, Kenchester; Isca-Silurum, Caerleon; with those laid down in the Itineraries, concur to establish this fact. Mr. Strange, in the Archaeology, observes, that he could trace no vestiges of the Romans here; but Mr. Ward was informed that several bricks had been found about the castle, bearing the inscription of LEG. II. AUG., and several Roman coins have been dug up, one of which was a gold piece of Otho. Formerly, near the castle, was to be seen a Roman sudatory; but what amounts to demonstration is, that Lanwenarth and Landeilo Bertholly, two parishes adjoining the town, divided in one instance by the Usk, and in the other by the

* *Aber*, in British, signifies the junction of a river with the sea, or its fall into another river; hence places so situated generally take the name of the river, preceded by this word, as Aber-ystwith, Aber-avon, &c.

† Baxter rightly conjectures, that the right orthography of the name of this place in the Itinerary, should be *Gabannium*, not Gobannium; and as it was usual with the Romans to substitute b for v, in words of British derivation, the name would signify the *station on the Gavenny*.

the Gavenny, are distinguished by *Roman* appellations; the parts lying near Abergavenny being discriminated by the word *citra* on this side, and *ultra* on the farther side, answering to the respective positions on those rivers.

After the dereliction of the island by the Romans, this spot was most probably occupied as a fortified post by the Britons. The present fortress is evidently, from the style of building, of a date subsequent to the Norman epoch. It was founded by Hameline Balun, or Baladun, whom Camden calls the first lord of Abergavenny, son of Dru de Balun, one of those Norman adventurers who came over with William the Conqueror; and under the political system of that wily monarch were permitted to let loose the fierce dogs of war, and commit their depredations upon the unoffending Welsh. This chieftain having subdued the whole district of Overwent, and dying, without issue, in year 1090, bequeathed the castle and territory to his nephew, Brien de Wallingford, or De L'Isle. Brien, on his departure for Jerusalem, left it to his nephew, Walter de Gloucester, earl of Hereford, and constable of England. Milo, his son, dying without issue, the castle and its contingencies were divided among his three daughters; by one of whom, named Berta, they came into the possession of Philip de Braose, or Breose, a powerful baron; from whom they descended to his son William. During that period this fortress was of distinguished importance, and witnessed many of those sanguinary conflicts and scenes of carnage which resulted from the unjustifiable seizures and tyrannical proceedings of the lords marchers, the valiant resistance made by the Welsh, and the noble energies they displayed in their desperate struggles for the recovery of their independence. This castle, Gyraldus observes, was dishonoured by treason oftener than any fortress in Wales; and he might have added, oftener disgraced by the basest treachery. While the property of William de Braose, it was surprised and taken by the Welsh, under the command of Sytsylt ap Dyfnwald, and other leaders, and the whole garrison made prisoners. William, however, by an exchange, received it again

on

on the cessation of hostilities; and having invited several of the Welsh chieftains to the castle, under the friendly pretence of finally adjusting all differences, and establishing peace on a permanent basis, he commanded them to be basely murdered: among the number were Sytsylt and his son Geoffry. Not content with this, he endeavoured to satiate his revenge by slaying the remaining son of Sytsylt, Cadwallader, in the presence of his mother, at Sytsylt's house*. A similar scene of diabolical atrocity had been previously exhibited, while the castle was in possession of William, son of Milo, earl of Hereford. The former at length suffered the punishment due to his crimes, by the falling of a fatal stone, at the time when Breulais Castle was burnt.—From the Braoses it came to the Cantelupes, the Hastings†, the Valences, the Herberts, the Greys, the Beauchamps; at length to the Nevilles, in which family the honour is still vested. George Neville, the fifteenth baron, was, in the year 1784, created Viscount Neville, and Earl of Abergavenny; and dying in 1785, he was succeeded in those honours and estates by Henry, the present earl.

Abergavenny is the only barony among the numerous honours conferred by the crown on the chieftains, who, subsequent to the Norman invasion, lent their aid in the subjugation of Wales; and like the earldom of Arundel, this is a feudal dignity, locally attached to the possession of the castle, enjoyed, not by creation, but by tenure.

The castle is in a very dilapidated state‡; most of the walls are

* Powell's History of Wales, p. 200.

† This, like most other fortified castles, was held in capite of the king. By the writ of inquisition it appears, that John de Hastings held it by homage, ward, and marriage; and whenever it happened, that there was war between the King of England and the Prince of Wales, he was to defend the country of Overwent at his own expence, in the best manner he could, for his own and the king's advantage, and the defence of the realm of England.

‡ When it is considered how long this edifice has been in a roofless and neglected

are fallen, the principal remains consisting of a round and a pentagonal tower, which, with their rugged sides, ruptured perforations, and menacing attitudes, on an eminence, sternly overlooking the river Usk, form a picturesque ruin. The windows and doorways still visible, are in the pointed style. From the site yet traceable, the castle appears to have consisted of two courts; one is converted into a kitchen garden; the gateway to the other, which formed the principal entrance, and some parts of the walls, are still standing. The fragments and heaps of ruins which lie around, are very extensive; and to the south-east of the circular tower is a tumulus or artificial mount, surrounded by a foss, with the foundation of buildings on the summit: this probably was the site of the citadel, or keep of the castle.

The town of Abergavenny was formerly fortified; some parts of the walls are intire, and may yet be traced. The castle formed the southern termination. Of the four gates, only the western one remains; it is denominated Tudor's gate, and is a massy portal, in the pointed style, with a groove in the archway for a portcullis *.

An Alien *Priory*, for monks of the Benedictine order, was founded

neglected state, it is rather a subject of wonder that so much, rather than so little, is left remaining. In the reign of Elizabeth, Churchyard says:

> " Most goodly towers are bare, and naked laft,
> That covered were with timber and good lead:
> These towers yet stand, as straight as doth a shaft,
> The walls thereof might serve for some good stead,
> For sound and thicke, and wondrous high withall,
> They are in deede, and likely not to fall:
> Would God, therefore, the owner of the same,
> Did stay them up for to increase his fame.
>
> *Worthines of Wales*, p. 54.

* The view through this gate is extremely fine, and the group or tout ensemble perhaps unrivalled. Coxe observes, " A more pleasing assemblage of picturesque objects never entered into the composition of a landscape; the whole harmonizes together, and produces an effect, which neither the pen nor pencil can adequately delineate.

founded in this town by Hameline Balun *, who built the castle, and not by John de Hastings, a benefactor, as erroneously stated by Speed. William de Braose, in the reign of King John, granted to this house a tythe of the whole provisions, &c. allowed to the castle, on condition that the abbot and monks of the monastery of St. Vincent's, in Mans, to which this house was a cell, should pray for the soul of King Henry the First, his own soul, and that of Maud, his wife. The annual revenues at the Dissolution, amounted to 129l. 5s. 8d. according to Dugdale; but, according to Speed, 59l. 4s.

The *Church of St. Mary's* was the chapel belonging to the ancient priory. It appears to have been originally built cruciform; but it has undergone so many alterations, that the regularity of the structure is destroyed. The present building consists of a nave, north aile, part of the transept with a central tower, a choir with two ailes, and a chancel. The windows and doors are in the original pointed style, except a blind circular arch in the transept, which points at the early Norman. The choir is nearly in its pristine state, having conventual stalls on each side, formed of oak rudely carved; the one intended for the prior is elevated, and surmounted by a mitre †. Though, as a specimen of architecture, this edifice displays little that will strongly interest the lovers of that noble science; yet from the connection with remote times, and the numerous monumental mementos of characters who proudly figured on the theatre of life, and stand honourably recorded in the annals of history, the visitor will find his

* His son, Brien of Wallingford, is said, by Camden, to have founded two Lazarettos, or hospitals for lepers; but no vestiges are at present traceable, and this error perhaps arose from the fact, that he had two sons lepers, whom he placed in the priory, on his going on pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

† The monastery of St. Vincent's, in Mans, was a mitred abbey. There were mitred priors, as well as mitred abbots, though it does not appear that the former had the privilege of seats in parliament.

his mind disposed to attend to the "siste viator" of the inscribed, or sculptured stone. Part of the south aile of the choir is denominated the Herbert Chapel, because many of that distinguished family lie buried here, and several ancient and curious monuments commemorate their names, and those of other noble personages who were lords of Abergavenny. The finest of these records the memory of Sir Richard Herbert of Ewias, son of William, the first earl of Pembroke. In a recess of the south wall is a recumbent figure, with uplifted hands, the head resting on a helmet; at the feet a lion; and behind, several small figures in alabaster. Beneath an alabaster monument, containing two recumbent figures, under an arch between the chapel and the choir, are deposited the remains of *Sir Richard Herbert*, of Coldbrook, and Margaret his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas ap Griffith: the tomb is ornamented on the sides with a variety of figures in relievo, but so defaced as to be with difficulty ascertained. Sir Richard was a distinguished character during the contentions between the two Houses of York and Lancaster; and the feats of arms which he performed at the celebrated battle of Banbury, are related in the style of chivalry by his descendant, the Lord Herbert of Cherburg. In the centre of the chapel is another alabaster monument, richly decorated with carving, to the memory of Sir William ap Thomas, and Gladys, his wife; the parents of William Herbert, first earl of Pembroke. This monument is ornamented with a variety of emblematic figures, and is peculiarly interesting to the natives, because the persons interred were not only the origin of the great family of Herbert, but Sir William was the son of the famous Thomas ap Gwillim, and Gladys was the daughter of the no less distinguished Sir David Gam, and widow of Sir Roger Vaughan, who fell in the great battle of Agincourt, by the side of Henry the Fifth. On the south side is an inarched mural monument, surmounted by tabernacle work, and a recumbent stone figure, rudely carved, cross-legged, therefore supposed to be a knight, and from the arms

arms, as described by Churchyard *, was intended to represent John de Hastings, who, in an heraldic poem, is represented as the "mirror of chivalry;" blending courtesy with deeds of arms, impetuous in military, and debonnaire in civil concerns. A most ridiculous story, respecting the greyhound at his feet, which was merely an emblem of loyalty, as the dog is an example of attachment and fidelity, is related by Coxe, evidently taken from the incident which happened at Beddkelart, in Caernarvonshire, North Wales. Other altar-tombs commemorate some of the families of Beauchamp and Neville. In the north-eastern corner are two stone effigies representative of Sir Andrew and Lady Powel, a collateral branch of the Herbert family. Sir Andrew was an English judge, and lord lieutenant of the counties of Monmouth, Brecknock, and Hereford. At the north end of the choir are two female recumbent figures of rude sculpture, and much dilapidated; one of which, according to old Churchyard, represents "a lady of some noble house, whose name I knowe not." From a manuscript account, quoted by Gough in his edition of Camden's Britannia, they are said to have been the co-heiresses of Braose, lord of Abergavenny. In the north aile of the choir is a small inclosure, called the Lewis Chapel, from a remarkable monument formed of one piece of stone, to the memory of Dr. DAVID LEWIS, erected by himself. Wood says he was first of All Souls College, and afterwards principal of Jesus College, judge of the high court of admiralty, master of St. Catherine's Hospital, near to the Tower of London, one of the masters in chancery, and of



* "He was a man of fame.
His shield of blacke he bares on brest,
A white crowe plain thereon:
A ragged sleeve in top, and crest,
All wrought in goodly stone.
And under feete a greyhound lyes,
Three golden Lyons gay,
Nine flowerdeluces, there likewise,
His arms doth full display."

*Worthines of Wales*, p. 56.

her majesty's requests: he died April 27th, A. D. 1584. In the window of the north aile is a colossal statue, carved out of a single piece of oak, with a long beard and dishevelled hair, representative of St. Christopher, before which it was customary, in catholic times, to present every corpse previous to interment; and as a proof that the age of superstition is not gone, the custom is still partially continued. In the chancel, within the communion rails, a mural stone commemorates the family of *Roberts*, and a Latin epitaph, written by Dr. Roberts, late provost of Eton College, in harmony of numbers may vie with the works of the Mantuan bard, and with any subsequent production, in classical purity.

Formerly there were two other churches in Abergavenny; but one is down, and the other in a dilapidated state.

*The Free Grammar School* was founded in the reign of Henry the Eighth, and endowed out of a portion of the revenues belonging to the priory, which are held in trust by the corporation. By an alteration in the management, that took place in the reign of Charles the Second, a portion of the tythes were leased for the term of ninety-nine years to Jesus College, Oxford, at fifty pounds per annum, on condition that it should maintain one fellow and one scholar, to be chosen by the bailiff and vicar out of the free school; or if none should be qualified, as to learning, for admission in the college, then from any natives of the county of Monmouth. Various other subsequent regulations took place, and, according to an act of parliament passed in the year 1760, the master must be a fellow, scholar, or member of Jesus College, and be chosen by the college and the vicar, if resident; and the fellow and scholar must be elected out of persons born at Abergavenny, or in the county of Monmouth, who have been two years in the school; and they are denominated "the fellow and scholar of Bergavenny," and vacate the fellowship and scholarship at the expiration of fourteen years.

Abergavenny was once incorporated, a place of considerable trade, and of the first importance in the county. Leland describes

scribes it in his time as being "a faire waulled town, meately welle inhabited, havyng . . . . . paroch chirch*." Since that period, however, it has considerably declined; but is still, in point of population, if not in importance, the second town in the county. The cause of this decline Mr. Coxe attributes to what, in all analogical probability, would have contributed to its advancement, the forfeiture of the charter in the beginning of the reign of William the Third, on account of disaffection to the new government, which occasioned violent dissensions, tumults, and disorders at the election of a bailiff. But its decline is much more rationally accounted for, by the failure of its trade. This town carried on an extensive flannel manufacture, which has long been transferred to Newtown, and other parts of Montgomeryshire; and those places have, in their turn, been outrivalled by the mechanical spirit of the people in Yorkshire. The quantity of flannel made now at Abergavenny is very small. A manufacture of narrow cloth, since the adoption of machinery in the great trading districts, has also fallen to decay. While flaxen periwigs were much worn, a method of *bleaching hair* for the purpose was discovered here, which gave the town the lead in the business of wig-making, whereby a number of persons were employed. Abergavenny at present carries on a considerable trade in making shoes and cabinet articles, and quantities of both are exported to Bristol, and to some other places. The recent establishment of the iron-works in the vicinity promises to be of considerable advantage to the town, and furnishes employment to numerous poor people of the surrounding district.

Abergavenny is handsome and well built, consisting of several streets, and during the summer is the resort of numerous genteel people. It is a great thoroughfare from London, Bath, and Bristol, to the western parts of Wales; has a well supplied market on Tuesdays; and contains 520 houses, and 2573 inhabitants.

Passing to the southward, the eye of the traveller will be

 caught

* Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 7.

caught by the enchanting prospect between the castle and the bridge over the Usk, which did not escape the local bard in the days of Elizabeth, but is more appropriately described by a pleasing poet of the present day:—

"Here while I wake the reed beneath the brow
Of the rent Norman tower that overhangs
The lucid Usk, the undulating line
That nature loves. Whether with gentle bend
She slopes the vale, or lifts the gradual hill,
Winds the free rivulet, or down the bank
Spreads the wild wood's luxuriant growth, or breaks
With interrupting heights the even bound
Of the outstretched horizon. Far and wide,
Blackening the plain beneath, proud Blorench lowers;
Behind whose level length the western sun
Dims his slope beam: there the opposed mount
Eastern of craggy Skirrid, sacred soil,
Oft trod by pilgrim foot. O'er the smooth swell
Of Derry, glide the clouds, that gathering hang
Round yon steep brow *, amid the varied scene
Towering aloft. As gradual up the height
Of the rough hills, ascending Ceres leads
The patient step of labour, the wide heath,
Where once the nibbling flock scant herbage cropt,
Wave in the breeze, with golden harvests crowned."

*Sotheby's Tour in Parts of Wales.*

Passing a fine old bridge, of thirteen arches, over the river Usk, the BLORENCE MOUNTAIN †, magnificent from its height and continuity, rises in sullen grandeur. This forms part of the mountainous chain, extending from the confines of Brecknock to Panteg, below Pontypool. The summit, bare of wood, and covered with a russet-coloured herbage, exhibits a striking contrast to the underwood and pastures on its concave sides, and the large timber trees which skirt its base. This long mountain forms

* The Sugar Loaf.

† The height of this mountain is 1720 feet.

forms the north-eastern boundary of the valley called Avon Lwyd, from the rivulet of that name flowing through it. Near the source of this stream is *Blaenavon*, lately brought into notice by the immense iron-works established in its vicinity. They are in the hollow part of the mountain, and wear the appearance of a small town, surrounded by an accumulation of ore, with coal and limestone for its fusion. These are all dug out of the adjacent rocks; and the veins of iron lying under the incumbent strata of coal, are about seven or eight inches thick: the quality of the ore is various, but yields on an average forty-four pounds of pig or cast iron per ton weight. The mines, both of iron and coal, are approached by horizontal shafts, the longest of which is about a mile; along these the coals and iron are brought to the furnaces by rail-roads, which are extended as the excavations proceed. These works, completed in the year 1789, employ upwards of four hundred men, and the population of the district is rapidly increasing. Some of the habitations of the workmen are constructed by filling up the arches of an extensive arcade thrown across the dingle, over which a rail-road leads to the mines. The mountainous territory containing these immense mineral treasures, is demised by the crown to the Earl of Abergavenny, and is held by an under lease by Hill and Co.; whose spirited exertions, after sinking vast sums of money, have succeeded in rendering the works a most beneficial concern to themselves, and useful to the inhabitants of the surrounding country.

In this unfrequented district, which was formerly called the *wilds* of Monmouth, only noticed for the cover it afforded for game, and the sport it furnished the gentry for growse shooting; and amidst scenes, not inferior to the celebrated ones of the Swiss Alps, stands the village of

ABERYSTWITH, or *Blaenau Gwent*, that is, the extremity of Gwentland. The Ystwith, a small stream, passes through the village, and soon after joins the Ebwy, in the parallel vale of the Ebwy. The church is a neat structure, in the pointed style, and remarkable for being surrounded by eleven large yew trees, planted on

the four sides of the churchyard, the smallest of which measures more than eleven feet in circumference, and the largest twenty-four. This village was the birth place of a singular character, whose fame in this part of the country has far surpassed both his merits or usefulness. *Edmund Jones*, the hero of some tourists, was one of those numerous devotees to fanaticism, who suddenly started up about the time when the celebrated leaders of methodism, Whitfield and Westley, occasioned a consternation in the world, and excited what has been termed a revival of the evangelical religion. The mind of Jones was one of those on which imagination produces wonderful effects, while faith and reason are absent; and admirably calculated for impressions made by attempts to fathom infinity, and comprehend incomprehensibility. He was for many years minister of a congregation of independent dissenters established at this village; and having much leisure time, he devoted it to the study of topography. In the year 1779 he published the results of his labours, which bear the following comprehensive title: "A Geographical, Historical, and Religious Account of the Parish of Aberystwith, in the county of Monmouth; to which are added, Memoirs of several Persons of Note, who lived in the said Parish." The book, under this pompous title, contains a very fair description of the three small, but interesting valleys of the Ystwith, the Ebwy, and the Tilery; the state of the independent congregations of the neighbourhood, biographical anecdotes of religious persons, and historical notices relative to the recent revival of religion. But what gives his work the most interesting trait, as indicative of the mental imbecility of the author, and the credulous state of the country, is a disquisition "on Apparitions, Fairies, and other Spirits of Hell." He describes them as children dancing to music; and seriously exhorts his readers not to view them in the light they had generally been considered, as happy spirits, because fond of music and dancing; reprobates, in harsh terms, the superstitious appellation, common in Monmouthshire, "*Mother's blessings*, and fair folks of the wood;" and says they frequented the parish of Aberystwith more than

than any part of the principality, and were particularly attached to Havodavel and Kevenbach, because they were dry and pleasant places; and in these they frequently exhibited their wanton vagaries. The stories related of those elfine exploits, which the author asserts to have been performed, are not only attempted to be proved from the testimony of others, but also by his own occular demonstration. "If any think I am too credulous in these relations, and speak of things of which I myself have had no experience, I must let them know they are mistaken. I also reasonably apprehend, that a well-attested relation of apparitions and agencies of spirits in the world, is a great means to prevent the capital infidelities of Atheism and Sadducism, which get much ground in some countries; for in Wales, where such things have often happened, and sometimes still do in some places, though but seldom now, we scarce meet with any, who question the being and apparition of spirits*." This extraordinary publication and the author would have been totally unworthy of notice, had not the farrago of its contents demonstrated, how ill qualified such men are to direct the spiritual concerns of others, who are themselves so totally unacquainted with the spiritual world; and that no folly is so injurious as ignorance in religious matters. It serves also to shew the mental tendency in these mountainous and sequestered regions to credit the stories of superstition, and with what facility hypocrisy or fanaticism may engage, and enslave the affections of minds, thus previously prepared by the admission of falsehood.

In a dreary, wild, and almost uninhabited district, among bleak and barren hills and peat-clad moors, are the iron-works of *Nant-y-glo*†, which once added activity and life to this secluded spot. These, consisting of two furnaces for smelting ore, several forges for manufacturing bar iron, a steam engine, and buildings necessary for conducting the concern, were erected in the year

 1795;

* See the work alluded to, p. 75 and 83.

† *Nant*, in British, signifies a glen or valley, through which a river or stream of water flows.

1795; and are held under lease from the proprietors of the Blaenavon works, by Hill, Harford, and Co. These works, attended with a vast expence, were, a year after their establishment, discontinued, owing to some misunderstanding between the proprietors of the concern; and the late diminution of the export trade in iron has tended to check the manufacturing spirit, which promised to give employment, fertility, and wealth to the surrounding district.

The Churchyard of LANIDDEL is distinguished by twelve large and antiquated yew trees; and on the north-western side of the church are the vestiges of a fortified post, called *Castell Taliurum*, which in most maps is erroneously spelt Castell *Italorum*, and is supposed a work of the Romans. But it is more probably of British origin, and was afterwards occupied and strengthened by the Normans, who conquered Gwent. *Taliurum* is, as the natives justly observe, neither Welsh nor English, and is evidently a corruption of *Ithel*, a saint, to whom the church is dedicated. The encampment consists of a small tumulus, surrounded by a circular entrenchment; and at a small distance two other tumuli, communicating with each other: and within the latter inclosure are remains of subterraneous walls, from nine to ten feet thick, the foundations probably of circular towers. Five miles distant from Laniddel is

## PONTYPOOL.

This town is singularly situated on a declivity, between the canal and the Avon Lwyd and a small stream, which in time of rains is swelled into a rapid torrent, flows from a lake at the foot of Mynydd Maen, under the canal, and running by the place, joins the river Avon in the valley beneath. The name is a corruption of *Pont ap Howel*, the ancient name of the bridge.

This place has protruded itself into notice since the period when

when the great topographer Camden wrote; having risen out of the small village of *Trevethen*, the church of which parish is a mile distant from the town. Its increase, like that of many flourishing places, is attributable to the influence of trade, which is ever accompanied in her route by wealth and population; and its origin has been referred to one of those fortunate accidental discoveries, which extend the sphere of useful science in certain directions, by means of experiment and deductions. Thomas Allgood, a native of Northamptonshire, a man of projecting genius and considerable attainments, in the time of Charles the Second, came to settle at Pontypool, where he made various attempts to extract copperas and oil from mineral coal. During the numerous experiments he conducted for this purpose, though he failed in the desired object, yet he accidentally made a discovery, which proved beneficial to his family and highly advantageous to the manufactures of the country; the art of varnishing iron plates, so as to imitate the lackered articles brought from Japan, and thence denominated *Japan ware*. His son, introduced into the manufactory a method, by means of acido-alkaline leys, of cleansing and polishing iron, which had long been kept a secret at Woburn, in Bedfordshire. This branch of workmanship was long carried on in a large way at Pontypool, and the articles were unrivalled in point of excellence; so much so, that after the trade ramified, and was established in other places, particularly in Warwickshire, the goods bore the name of the first establishment; and to the present time those of a superior kind are sold under the denomination of *Pontypool ware*.

What principally tended to render Pontypool the wealthy and flourishing place it is at present, were the iron-works established here by Capel Hanbury*, towards the latter part of the sixteenth century. The prevalency of iron ore in the surrounding hills, first

* Capel was the younger branch of the family, which resided at Hanbury Hall, in Worcestershire, whence they derived the name of Hanbury; and Capel and several of the family were interred in the chancel of Kidderminster church, in which parish Hanbury Hall stood.

first excited the attention of persons conversant with the iron trade, and the facility afforded to the manufacturing it by the quantities of coal, wood, and water, with which the country abounds, have contributed to fix, and extend the original establishments. Indeed, the situation, in the vicinity of a region so rich in mineral treasures as this part of the county, and those of the adjacent country, in the midst of collieries, furnaces, and forges, and the means of conveyance for heavy articles by canals and rail-ways, render it peculiarly calculated for every description of manufactures; and it is not improbable, were baleful war to cease, and peace give stimulus to the energies of trade, another generation may see a new "toy-shop of Europe;" a second Birmingham, arise amid the mountains of Monmouthshire.

The town has only two principal streets, yet is a large straggling place, containing many neat houses and numerous shops, which give it an air of thriving prosperity; but the buildings being annoyed with the smoke of the adjoining forges, put on a dusky appearance. The inhabitants are principally occupied in the coal and iron-works in the immediate vicinity; and since the establishment of the Blaenavon works, they have derived increasing advantages from the rail-roads, and the extension of the Newport Canal. A large and cheap weekly market, on Saturdays, is well supplied, and forms the grand mart for the inhabitants of this mountainous district to a considerable surrounding extent. It contains neither chapel of ease nor meeting-house, although the parish church is at an inconvenient distance, and the population has been gradually increasing. According to the returns made to parliament, in 1801, the number of houses was 338, and of inhabitants 1472.

Pontypool Park is pleasantly situated on an eminence, which forms part of a hill, denominated, from its shape, *Moel*, between the town and Trevethin Church. Nature has charmingly displayed her variegating powers in this diversified spot. The western boundary is the wild torrent of the Avon Lwyd, which

which here rushes through the rocky channel with its accustomed rapidity, attended with romantic scenery, over which towers the bare, but bold elevation of *Mynydd-Maen*. A narrow lawn extends from Pont-y-Moel to the house, skirted by large plantations of oak, beech, and Spanish chesnut, whose patulous and pendant branches sweep the herbage of the valley; while on the opposite side the grounds rise in irregular acclivities, clothed with hanging groves: and beyond these, in the back ground, is a succession of swelling eminences, which the variety and softness of their undulating lines, finely contrast with the abrupt and irregular features of the surrounding scenery*. The mansion, situated on a perpendicular cliff above the Avon Lwyd, at the extremity of the grounds, was began by Major Hanbury, towards the latter end of the seventeenth century, and finished by his son Capel; but it has lately undergone considerable alterations, and numerous improvements have been judiciously made by the present proprietor, *Capel Hanbury Leigh, Esq.* It is a good, substantial mansion, and contains numerous portraits of the Hanbury family. A few curious ones have lately been brought from Gnoll Castle by Mrs. Leigh; and two pictures, representing groups of boys, by *Murillo*, display all the ease and simplicity of that pleasing master. These, so justly admired by connoisseurs, were a present from the great Sir Robert Walpole to Capel Hanbury.

Though not a native of Pontypool, yet, as having chiefly resided there, and been one of its most permanent benefactors, it would be improper to leave the town, without briefly noticing a character distinguished by his talents and usefulness, JOHN HANBURY, ESQ. better known by the name of *Major Hanbury*. He was born in the year 1664, and having received a liberal education, was then designed for the bar; but the dull study of the law was far from according with the activity of his mind. Possessed of a natural mechanical and manufacturing genius, he quickly

* From a summer-house, on an eminence near the southern extremity of the chain of hills extending from the park to the Blorenge, is a very gratifying, and almost boundless prospect.

quickly laid aside Coke upon Littleton, and, declining the doubtful way to wealth and fame, by travelling the judicial circuits, he chose the more certain road of trade, and turned his attention to mines and forges. Having acquired an additional fortune by marriage, he fixed his residence at Pontypool, and occupied himself in extending and improving the iron-works in the vicinity. Profound skill and incessant application crowned his endeavours with the desired success: he greatly enhanced his own fortune, benefitted the neighbourhood, and contributed towards the general welfare of the country at large. By his ingenuity the machinery adapted to the works received considerable improvements: he discovered the method of making sheet iron, by the process of expanding bars with compressing cylinders, and the admirable invention of coating iron with tin, of which so many useful culinary and other utensils are manufactured, was by him first introduced into this kingdom, and the first tinning-work set up at Pontypool. By his second marriage, into the family of Ayscough, he became acquainted with the Duke of Marlborough, who honoured him with particular marks of his confidence and esteem. He sat in three successive parliaments, as member for the city of Gloucester, for which he had first been elected in the year 1701. On the accession of George the First to the throne, he was returned knight of the shire for Monmouth; and this county he continued to represent till his death, which happened in 1734, in the seventieth year of his age. During the first part of his political career he was attached to the whig interest, and with that party uniformly voted; but subsequent to the grand schism, which happened in that faction, he seems to have veered round, either from circumstantial changes or more enlarged views; for he joined the opposition, and became one of the hostile phalanx* which continually annoyed the administration of Sir Robert Walpole.

Three miles from Pontypool, near two small lakes called reservoirs,

* The name of John Hanbury appears in the list of those who nobly opposed, by their votes, the extension of the *Excise*.

servoirs, as serving to supply the canal with water*, rises the immense mountain MYNYDD-MAEN, abounding in steep and abrupt acclivities, by one of which Machen-hill is detached from it. At the south-western extremity of the mountain rises a swelling eminence, called *Twyn Barlwm*, and vulgarly *Tom Balam*, about six miles in circumference at its base, of an oval shape, covered with heath, and a brown-coloured herbage. The summit is flat, and upon it is an *entrenchment* of an elliptical form, one hundred and ninety yards in length, and in the widest part seventy in breadth; at the east end of which is a circular *tumulus*, or artificial mound of earth and stones, thirty feet in height, surrounded with a deep foss. The large inclosure is environed by a foss, about three feet deep, and from extending round the verge of the declivous part of the eminence, has been generally supposed to have been a British or Roman camp; if so, it could only have been one of the campa-estiva for temporary occupation, or the exercise of the troops. Some have viewed it as one of those ancient places of sepulture, denominated *carns* among the Britons, who used to bury under heaps of stones like this, on some proud elevated spot, any distinguished chieftain who fell in defence of his country; for the double purpose of a conspicuous memorial, and exciting terrific recollections in the breasts of their enemies. Such an opinion is strongly countenanced by the name given to an adjacent dingle, *Cwm Carn*, that is, the valley of the Carn. But the learned antiquary, Mr. William Owen, observes, that according to traditional information preserved among the present race of Cambrian bards, it was once a celebrated spot for holding the bardic meeting called *Eisteddfod*; and when the site and other similar inclosures are compared, it is highly probable that was its original designation. The prospect from it will amply repay the fatigue which the curious traveller may have in ascending the mountain.

LANTARNAM

* One supplies the Pontypool branch, and the other the Crumlin branch.

LANTARNAM ABBEY was founded for monks of the Cistercian order, and its annual revenues were valued, on its dissolution, at 71l. 3s. 2d. The only remains of the original building are the stone cells, converted into stables, the conventual garden walls, and a gateway, with a fine arch, in the pointed style, that formed the entrance. Within is a porch, on which is a shield in stone, bearing the arms of the Morgan family in nine quarterings, and the date 1588. In the reign of Elizabeth the abbey became the property of William Morgan, Esq. who erected out of the materials the residence of

LANTARNAM HOUSE. This has been a fine mansion, but long untenanted, is going fast to decay; and the combination of dilapidations, with vestiges of former magnificence, impress the mind with gloom, by contrasting its present dreary appearance with past recollection. The large hall contains several full-length pictures of our kings and queens: and the royal arms emblazoned in the windows, shew that in its days of splendour it was probably honoured with royal visits. In several apartments are also portraits representative of different branches of the family. The park, in which the mansion stands, is highly diversified by gentle eminences and pleasing slopes, interspersed with thick plantations and long avenues of antiquated trees, which contribute to add to the melancholy picture. A stream, already noticed under the name of Avon Lwyd, coming down from the Pontypool hills, flows by the park; and on its banks stands the *Church* of *Lantarnam*, which Mr. Coxe supposes a corruption of *Lan-Torfaen* *, the ancient name of the rivulet.

## WENTLOOG

* "It received the appellation of Avon Lwyd, or the *Grey* river, since the establishment of the iron-works at Pontypool, from its waters being discoloured by scourings of the iron-stone." Hist. Tour, p. 116, note. The names of rivers are the most ancient appellations in language, and were usually given from some striking feature or characteristic. Avon is a generic

## WENTLOOG HUNDRED

has the hundred of Abergavenny on the north-east, having the Ebwy rivulet for its boundary, and on the south-west the river Rumney, which separates it from the county of Glamorgan, stretching in a south-easterly direction from Brecknock to the sea. The greater part of this district is a mountainous tract, watered by numerous streams, particularly the Ebwy, the Sorwy, and the Rumney, flowing nearly parallel, and which are flanked by chains of hills running in similar directions. A branch of the Newport canal reaches north-westerly up to Crumlin-bridge, and a rail-road extends the communication to the iron founderies at Ebwy, and to the Beaufort forges and other works, in the county of Brecon.

This hundred contains the town of *Newport;* the parishes of *Bedwas,* Upper and Lower, *Bettus, St. Bride's, Bydwellty, Coedcernew, Henllis, Machen,* Upper and Lower, *Malpas, Marshfield, St. Mellon's, Michaelstonevedow, Peterstone, Risca, Rumney, St. Woollos;* and nine respectable hamlets, viz. *Clawrplyff, Duffrin, Graig, Ishlawrcoed, Mamhole, Monidd Main, Penmain, Rogerstone, Ychlawrcoed.*

Proceeding from Pontypool, in a north-westerly direction, the traveller enters what has been termed "the wilds of Monmouthshire," a tract of country, little frequented, abounding in diversified and romantic scenery; and still more interesting in a statistical point of view, from its mineral treasures. About three miles

generic term for rivers in general; and Lwyd or Llwyd, a specific, signifying, not grey, but *foaming*, from Llwyd senescere, to grow white, as waters in a state of foam. Torfaen, that is, the stone-breaker, was probably a vulgar term; for the inhabitants say they have seen the stones strike fire, when dashed together by the torrent.

miles above Crumlin-bridge, at the foot of the Beacon Mountain, the two streams, called the Great and Little Ebwy rivers, form a junction. At this confluence the most careless observer must have his attention fixed, however reluctant he may feel, to admire the beautiful and sublime; or, however incapable he may be to relish those inexpressible delights which arise from the contemplation of those grand features of nature.

Nothing can exceed the views at the junction of these two streams, where the Great Ebwy, rushing through the vale of Ebwy with its sylvan and rocky accompaniments on one side, and on the other the Little Ebwy, bursting suddenly from a dense wood, eager, through a narrow glen, to join its foaming waters with the sister stream. Over the latter are two stone bridges; one originally constructed for general communication, and the other erected for the purpose of carrying on the rail-road, which leads to Ebwy Vale furnace, and to the Beaufort iron-works. Near the north-western extremity of the long mountainous ridge that goes under the general name of Mynydd Maen, is *Sorwy smelting furnace*, and three miles below, the iron and coal-mines of *Brinaro*. Descending the vale of Sorwy, where it is crossed by the road leading from Pontypool to Mirthyr Tydvil, is

Bydwellty, the church of which village, dedicated to St. Sannan, is a curious instance of the mixture of the ancient British mode of building with the succeeding pointed style. The structure is singularly mean, and, but for this circumstance, would have no claim to attention: it consists of a nave, north aile, and a chancel; the two latter are separated from the nave by a range of low massive columns, two feet eight inches in diameter, and not more than three feet and a half in height. These are surmounted by a range of pointed arches. The churchyard is environed with ancient entrenchments, the vestiges of which have nearly been obliterated by the plough. Descending the vale to the left, are the coal-mines of *Mynydd y Slwyn*, and the extensive iron-works of *Abercorn*. These, late the property of Samuel Glover,

Glover, Esq. consist of a foundery; a tilting and fuming mill; an Osmond forge; a wire mill, capable of drawing a hundred bundles of wire per week; a forge, with shingling and finishing rollers, which will shingle seventy tons per week; and a rolling mill, that will convert sixty tons per week of half blooms into bar-iron. The Monmouthshire canal passes through the works, which are supplied with coals from a colliery, one mile and a half distant, brought down a tram-road to the canal.

BASSALEG. In this parish was a PRIORY of black monks of the Benedictine order, founded by Robert de Haye, and Gundreda, his wife, between the years 1101 and 1120. It was made a cell to the abbey of Glastonbury, but appears to have gone to decay prior to the general dissolution of religious houses. Tanner observes, that the monks were soon recalled to Glastonbury; for abbot Michael, who attained that dignity in 1235, let to farm the church of Bassalech, which seems a convincing proof that there were no longer any of their own convent resident there. No remains of the ancient priory exist, but a ruin situated in a dense wood, about a mile from the church, is supposed to have been part of the structure; and the name of Coed-y-monachty, the wood of the monastery, corroborates the supposition. In this parish is a conical hill, called *Craig-y-Saesson*, on the summit of which is a circular *encampment*, almost obscured by underwood. From the name, it has been attributed to the Saxons; but *saesson* is a term of reproach, which the Welsh bestow on *all foreigners*, and, the want of understanding this distinction, has induced antiquaries to extend the incursions of the Saxons further into these parts than facts will support, or circumstances allow. The entrenchment consists of a single foss and rampart of earth. About a mile distant is another of a similar shape, with loose stones lying in the foss, which probably are the remains of walls. These fortresses, from their construction, were apparently British; and a meadow near, called Maes-Arthur, records the memory of that celebrated hero.

TREDEGAR PARK, is the spacious and magnificent seat of the ancient family of *Morgan*, who for generations resided here; but the heir male failed on the death of the late John Morgan, Esq*. and the property came to Sir Charles Gould Morgan, Bart. late advocate-general, in right of his wife, Jane, sole heiress of the above John Morgan. The house stands in a flat part of the park. Some of the original structure, described by Leland as "a very fair place of stone," is still remaining, but has long been converted into offices. The present mansion, built of brick, was erected in the reign of Charles the Second. The apartments are large and well proportioned, and some are curious for being fitted up in the ancient style, particularly what is called the *oak* room, from its being floored and wainscoted with planks cut out of a single oaken tree. This apartment, which is forty-two feet in length and twenty-seven in breadth, will convey some idea of the enormous height and girt of the prodigious extension of a single acorn. Here is a large collection of pictures, principally portraits, among which is a fine painting of the celebrated serjeant SIR JOHN MAYNARD, in his judicial robes. The park, well stocked with deer, is extensive, and the grounds are finely diversified with variegated features, soft and abrupt, champaign, and acclivous, covered with noble plantations of oak, beech, and Spanish chesnut.

PETERSTONE CHURCH, situated within a quarter of a mile of the sea walls, is an elegant structure of hewn stone; and the tower

* The family of Morgan is one of the most ancient and most conspicuous in Wales, and many of them have been emblazoned in the poems of the bards, and in the records of history. That partiality for tracing family pedigrees, which may be termed *innate* heraldry, has exerted its utmost powers to pursue to the highest source the lineage of Morgan, and follow it through all its direct and collateral ramifications. The most authentic account makes them descendants of the celebrated defender of his country against Roman usurpation, Caradoc, better known under the name of Caractacus.

tower exhibits a good specimen of architecture, in the early pointed style. The church consists of a nave and two ailes, which are separated from the former by two ranges of clustered columns, on which rest lofty pointed arches. The chancel is entirely dilapidated; but its site is visible beyond the present eastern window. This edifice was erected at the expense of Mabile, or Maud, daughter and heiress of the great Norman baron, Robert Fitzhamon, and wife of Robert, earl of Gloucester, natural son of King Henry the First.

Castell Glas, or *Green Castle*, during the baronial wars, and the contentions of the York and Lancastrian families, was a fortress of great strength and security, belonging to the duchy of Lancaster. Though neither noticed by Leland nor Camden, it is well depicted by Churchyard, as it appeared in the time of Elizabeth:—

> "A goodly seate, a tower, a princely pyle,
> Built as a watch or saftie for the soyle,
> By river stands, from Newport not three myle;
> This house was made when many a bloodie broyle
> In Wales, God wot, destroyed that publicke state:
> Here men with sword and shield did braules debate;
> Here saftie stood, for many things indeede,
> That sought saveguard, and did some sucker neede*."

The remains of this strong and splendid fortress, situated in the low ground, called Mendalgyf, between the Ebwy and the Usk, consist of a square tower, with a spiral staircase; some of the apartments, in which are pointed arches belonging to the windows and doorways; and a building used by the occupier of the adjoining farm, as a shed for cattle. At a small distance is a raised mound of earth, the site of the citadel or keep; and the numerous remains of walls and foundations which have been traced by digging, shew it to have been of very considerable extent. The

 whole

* Worthines of Wales, p. 59.

whole building appears to have been faced with hewn lime-stone, dug from adjacent quarries. The river, it is probable, was once navigable up to the castle. Rather more than a mile distant, to the west, on the same side of the Ebwy, is a small circular *entrenchment*, on an eminence denominated the *Gaer*.

MALPAS CHURCH, one mile and a half from the town of Newport, is an object well deserving antiquarian and historic attention. The building, now the place for parochial worship, was the chapel to a small religious house for monks of the Cluniac order, a cell to the priory of Montacute, in Somersetshire. This, Tanner conjectures, was the property granted to that monastery by Winebald de Baeluna, or Balun, in the time of Henry the First, under the denomination of Terra de Cairlion; and was given as parcel of that monastery, at the Dissolution, to William Herbert, of St. Julian's. This church, built of unhewn stone, is of an oblong shape, and consists of a nave and chancel; but has neither aile nor steeple. The entrance, on the western side, and three of the principal windows have circular heads, ornamented with hatchet and other mouldings, and receding columns, which have been supposed decidedly characteristic of the Saxon, or early Anglo-Norman architecture: some few of the original apertures have been filled up, and pointed windows inserted. The arch of the south window, apparently once a door-way, is more richly decorated, and embossed with roses, very similar to the Etruscan style: the columns are massy, and of different shapes, with varied capitals, as is the case in many buildings which have generally been referred to the Saxon period; but from the well founded doubts of some historians, whether the Saxons ever were in possession of this part of the country, and the certainty that they never were settled in it, and the circumstances of the early introduction of christianity in the vicinity, which will be noticed in the account of Caerleon, there is a strong probability that it is a British structure, of unknown epoch.

## NEWPORT.

This town, called by Gyraldus, *Novus-Burgus*, or New-town, arose out of the declining greatness of Caerleon, and was by the Welsh denominated Castel-Newydd, or New-castle. Robert, earl of Gloucester, natural son of Henry the First, obtained, in right of his wife, Maud, daughter of Robert Fitzhamon, with other possessions, the lordship of Monmouth. He was well skilled in military architecture, and erected several castles to defend his immense possessions, amongst which are noticed Bristol, Caerdiff, and Newport. This was peculiarly necessary for the defence of the territory on the south-west side of the river, which was open to the attacks of the Welsh, who often wrested Caerleon from the Anglo-Normans, and made inroads into the country of Morgannoc. William, son of Robert, succeeded his father, and in his time the castle was strongly garrisoned under the name of the New Castle on the Usk, A. D. 1172. Just before the death of William, an anecdote is related by Powell*, which perpetuates the memory of the garrison and the castle, by the indelible marks of treachery and blood. In the year 1173, Henry the Second endeavoured to dethrone Prince Jorwerth ap Owen, and had deprived him of a great part of his possessions; but while the king was engaged in the French war, the Welsh chieftain had repossessed himself of the greater portion; and Henry, on his return, found him become so formidable, that he thought it prudent to make peace with him, whom he had a short time before almost virtually dethroned. For the purpose of negociation, he granted a safe passage to Jorwerth and his sons, to meet him at a conference on the borders. In consequence, the eldest son of Jorwerth, Owen ap Caradoc, while on the road to meet his father, was assailed by some soldiers from the garrison of New-



* History of Wales, p. 200.

port, by whom the young and valliant chieftain was basely murdered. "If," as a writer justly observes, "after what had passed between the Welsh princes and the English monarch, Henry had any previous knowledge of this treacherous transaction; or if, as has been stated, it was done at his instigation, and by his command, it not only marks a cruel and mistaken policy for the subjugation of the Welsh, but leaves an indelible stain upon the moral character of Henry, for an act of barbarity, which no state policy could justify, nor time ever efface." What might have been foreseen, instantly took place: when the poignant tale of grief reached the ears of Jorwerth, he instantly broke off the conference; returned with his younger son, Howel, to lay before his subjects and allies the irreparable injury he had sustained from the treachery of the English monarch. Roused by the base act of perfidy, the Welsh rallied round his standard, and, breathing revenge, and determined on retaliation, they entered the marches, and with fire and sword carried devastation and dismay to the banks of the Severn and the Wye; to the gates of Hereford and Gloucester. From the Earl of Gloucester, the castle came into the possession of Richard de Clare, earl of Hereford; and from him it descended to the Le Despensers. It was then restored to Hugh de Audley, and, by marriage, came to Ralph, earl of Stafford, who performed the most valorous exploits under the Black Prince, at the memorable battle of Cressy. For those services he was created earl of Hereford, appointed the viceroy and captain-general of Aquitain, in France, with a special commission to raise forces for its defence; and under that authority, sixty men with lances were impressed out of his lordships of Newport and Netherwent, in the Marches of Wales. In his family it continued till the attainder of Edward, third duke of Buckingham, when the castle and lordship were seized by Henry the Eighth. The present proprietor is William Kemeys, Esq. of Mayndee.

The shell of the castle, standing near the foot of the bridge, on the right bank of the Usk, is a massive structure, but not of large

large dimensions, although it appears to have formerly been of greater extent. The building forms nearly a parallelogram, and is constructed with rubble, coigned with hewn stone. The side towards the town consists simply of a plain wall, devoid of buttresses, which has led to the conjecture, that it was erected solely for defending the passage across the river; but it is evident, that formerly the works were much stronger on the southern side, and vestiges of a moat still appear, though it has been filled with earth from the adjoining canal. Toward the north, in the centre, is a square tower, which served for the keep or citadel, flanked with small turrets. Beneath this is a sally-port, facing the river, having a pointed arch, and a groove for a portcullis; on each side is a large massy tower, with windows and oeillets in the pointed style. The centre contains a spacious apartment, called the state-room; adjoining to this are the remains of the baronial hall, the windows of which are decorated with rich stone tracery. One of the collateral towers, though in a dilapidated state, is fitted up as an habitation.

Newport was formerly defended by fortified walls, though at present no vestiges whatever remain. Leland mentions three gate-houses as standing in his time: one a large stone gate, by the bridge at the east end of the town; another at the west end of the town, near the parish church; and a third, in the centre of the High-street. The site of the eastern and western may yet be traced; and the central one was an ancient archway in the pointed style, the upper part of which was long used as a prison; but the whole has lately been taken down. An old building, near this gate, is shewn as the house of the murenger, who was an officer of consequence in ancient times, particularly in fortified towns; but as this place was exempt from murage as early as the reign of Edward the Second, this cannot be fact. The edifice has an ornamented front, with shields of arms carved in stone over an antiquated doorway.

Newport obtained a charter of privileges for its burgesses and inhabitants of Edward the Second, by means of the influence

which the younger Hugh de Spencer had over that weak and unfortunate monarch. It afterwards received further grants from subsequent kings; and by a charter, dated in the twenty-first year of James the First, it is now governed by a corporation, under the denomination of "the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the borough of Newport, in the county of Monmouth*."

This town, conjointly with Usk and Monmouth, sends one member to the British senate; and, as previously observed, the franchise is vested in the burgesses, being resident, who are elected by the mayor and aldermen, assisted by the manorial lord, or his steward.

The town is a narrow, straggling place, consisting principally of one long street, extending from the flat bank of the Usk up to the eminence on which stands the parish church. It has been termed by tourists a gloomy place; but that arises more from the want of apparent activity, than the dulness of situation.

Leland says, "the toun is in ruin," and further states, "ther was a house of religion by the key, beneth the bridge†." This, Tanner conjectured, was a monastery of friars preachers; because, at the Dissolution, such a one was granted to Sir Edward Carn. The remains are still standing, near

* The privileges confirmed by this charter, exclusive of the municipal powers, were numerous. The burgesses are, by virtue of several previous grants and patents, exempt from the payment of sundry tolls and duties throughout the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, and the duchy of Aquitain, and all other dominions of the realm of England. These grants, &c. were previously confirmed in the 27th year of Elizabeth, and the exemptions were from murage or wall-tax, pontage or bridge-toll, pickage or standing-toll, tronage or wool-weighing toll, kayage or wharfage, terrage or tillage, and all other customs and duties of whatever description; those upon wool, hides, fleeces, or sheepskins, and wines, excepted.

About fifty statute acres of marsh-land being within the limits of the borough, belong to the inhabiting burgesses, and their widows. This they have enjoyed, either by grant or prescriptive right, for more than a century, with certain limitations as to the mode and time of taking the produce.

† Itinerary, Vol. IV, f. 53.

near the river, below the bridge; they consist of several detached apartments, the fratry, with its windows, having pointed arches, and the northern transept of the conventual church, which, though small, is a neat specimen of the style of the original building: it is used as a house for a cyder-mill, and the press is placed in a recess which appears to have been a sepulchral shrine or chapel. The gardens of the monastery are yet inclosed with the original wall.

The *Church of St. Woolas*, which Leland calls St. Guntle Olave in English, and which is the only place of worship for the inhabitants, in the establishment, is situated on an eminence to the southwest of the town. The edifice consists of a lofty square tower, a nave with two ailes, a chancel, and a small chapel, dedicated to St. Mary, now used only as a place of interment. It has been erected at different times. The present tower was built by Henry the Third, as a testimony of his gratitude to the loyal inhabitants of the town, for their successful opposition to Simon Montfort, earl of Leicester. All that remains of the original structure is the present nave, built, if not in the Saxon, evidently in the earliest part of the Anglo-Norman period. The grand entrance formerly was by the western doorway, leading out of St. Mary's chapel into the church. This is formed by a semicircular arch, with several hatcheted, crenellated, and billeted mouldings, resting on two low cylindrical columns, and capitals decorated with foliage. The nave is separated from the ailes by five circular arches on each side, resting on four massive columns, and a pentagonal pilaster, or half column, at each extremity. The doors and windows are in the pointed style, and of much later date. A few fragments of painted glass still remain in some of the windows.

Near the church was a barrow, vulgarly called *Twyn-Gwnlliw*, or the tomb of St. Woolas, to whom the church is dedicated. This, Harris, in his account of the antiquities of Newport, with probability in favour of the opinion, conjectures to have been one of those forts denominated arx speculatoria, which the Romans usually

usually constructed adjacent to their encampments; and many vestiges of the latter are still visible in the vicinity.

*Newport Bridge* is a handsome stone structure of five arches, over the Usk, built at the expense of the county, under the direction of Mr. David Edwards, son of the celebrated Edwards, who erected the far-famed bridge of one arch, called Pont-y-Prydd, near Caerphylli, in Glamorganshire. The entrance into the town, previous to the recent completion of this structure, was by means of a long narrow wooden bridge, with a moveable floor, similar to the one at Caerleon.

The inhabitants of this town are principally supported by the commercial relations of the port, which consists of foreign, coasting, and inland trade. With respect to the former, the only information to be obtained is from the custom-house entries; and, as these are made at Caerdiff, Newport being only a creek of that port, it is difficult to get an accurate statement. According to returns furnished to Mr. Coxe, the total number of ships, with their tonnage and number of men, registered in the port of Caerdiff, was as follows:

| | Ships. | Tons. | Men. |
|---|---|---|---|
| In 1792 | 22 | 874 | 76 |
| In 1798 | 30 | 1076 | 97 |

Supposing, therefore, Newport to have shared at all with Caerdiff, the foreign trade was at the latter period on the increase; but it has never arrived at a state to be of much consideration, in a commercial point of view. Its coasting trade is, however, considerable. The exports consist chiefly of coals, with cast and bar-iron from the different founderies and forges in the western mountains, brought to the quay by the Monmouthshire canal. The imports are deals, furniture, groceries, linen-drapery, and all kinds of shop goods. This trade has been increasing, as is evident by the following statement from the custom-house-books:

*Entries*

| *Entries inwards.* | | | | *Entries outwards.* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Years. | Vessels | Tons. | Men. | Years. | Vessels | Tons. | Men. |
| In 1791 | 202 | 10,580 | 898 | In 1791 | 247 | 12,349 | 1,051 |
| In 1795 | 295 | 12,190 | 9,305 | In 1795 | 243 | 11,067 | 990 |

The inland, or home trade, has been much increased since the completion of the canal in 1798. The population of Newport, according to the returns made to parliament in 1801, was 202 houses, and 1,135 inhabitants.

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## USK HUNDRED,

situated to the north-east of Wentloog, is a hilly, but fruitful district, abounding in fine arable and grass lands, interspersed with coppice-woods, plantations, and orchards. It is watered by the Avon Lwyd, which forms its south-western boundary; by the Olwy, that rising near Trelech, joins the Usk a little to the south of the town of that name; and by the Usk, which meandering through its centre, is accompanied by one of the most diversified and picturesque vales perhaps in the kingdom. It contains the towns of USK and CAERLEON, the antiquity and importance of which, in the scale of human events, will necessarily arrest the attention of the topographer, and interest the feelings of all who are capable of discovering the connection between present and remote transactions.

THE HIGHER DIVISION contains the parishes of *Gwernesney*, *Kemeys* Commander, *Kemeys* Inferior, *Langeview*, *Langwym* Lower, *Langwym* Upper, *Lanllowell*, *Lantrissent*, *Tredunnock*, and *Trostrey*. The LOWER DIVISION comprehends the parishes of

of *Lanbadock, Landegveth, Langattock, Langibby, Lanhenock, Lanthewy Vach, Lanvihangel Lantarnam, Lanvihangel Ponty-moule, Lanvrechva* Lower, *Lanvrechva* Upper, *Monkswood,* and *Panteague.*

## CAERLEON.

The *Isca Silurum** of the ancients, the chief station of the Romans in the Silurian territory, and where the invincible second Augustan legion was for years in garrison, is now a small, inconsiderable town, upon the western banks of the Usk, just below the conflux of the Avon Lwyd. The appellation, Caerleon, has generally been supposed to be derived from *caer*, a fortified place, and *legio*, corrupted into *leon;* but the learned author of the Welsh Dictionary thinks this etymology is utterly improbable. He contends that the name should be *Caer-Llion*, or the city of waters: it is, however, more probable the post-fix is an additional appellation given after the place became celebrated for being a seat of the muses, as well as a military station. *Llén*, pronounced as the name of the town usually is by the inhabitants, *leen*, means literature, or a scientific institution; the natural denomination, therefore, would be *Caer-llên*, the fortified and learned city†.

Caerleon

* In the Itinerary of Antoninus it is denominated *Isca-legionis secundæ;* in that of Richard of Cirencester, *Isca-Colonia;* and in others, *Isca-Silurum*, to distinguish it from other stations named Isca.

† Mr. Owen presumes, "that the towns so called had these identical names previous to the Romans taking possession of them, viz. Caer-leon on the Usk, and Caer-leon on the Dee, Chester; and why should not other places, where Roman legions were stationed, have received similar appellations? In manuscripts the word is written Llion, the import of which word is streams, torrents, or floodings, derived from Lli, a stream; and probably the situation is or was formerly on the extremity of the range of the tides, thus rendering the plural form of the appellation still more descriptive than if it were only (as it frequently had been used) on account of the vicinity of the river Usk to that town." Coxe's Hist. Tour, Appendix, No. 6.

To

Caerleon lays claim to as high antiquity as any station in the kingdom. The British Chronicle states, that Bran remained emperor of Rome, and Beli returned to the isle of Britain, which he governed in a state of tranquillity till his death. He repaired the decayed fortresses, and erected others, among which was one on the river Wysc, and was at length called Caer-Wysc. This was the seat of the archbishop of Dyved; and after the arrival of the Romans, its denomination was changed into Caer-Llion, because it was usual for the troops to winter there. The British city is supposed to have been to the westward of the present town, and situated on the sides of a hill in Lantarnam Park, on which are the remains of a fortress. Of its occupation by the Romans, and being their principal station in this part of the island, the multifarious vestiges of that people, leave not the smallest room for doubt. The remains of walls and public works, the numerous pavements, altars, statues, sculptured and inscribed stones, coins, and various other antiquities, which at times have been discovered, combine to furnish an irresistible mass of evidence of its having been once a great Roman city; and the quantities of bricks and tiles which have been dug up, having in relievo LEG. II. AUG. demonstrate, that it was a residence of the second Augustan legion of the Roman army. The distances between this place and Usk, according with those stated by Antoninus between Burrium and Isca, prove it to have been that identical station of the Itinerary. During the stay of the Romans in this island, it continued to be the seat of government for the division of the country denominated Britannia Secunda; and in that

To this ingenious etymological decision, it may be replied, that the first position is presumed; to the second, that some other places have been so denominated, and, as supposed, from similar circumstances. Nennius calls Warwick, Caer-leon, where a squadron of Dalmatian horse was stationed; and the kingdom of Leon, in Spain, was so called from the Legio VII. Germanica having been stationed there while the Romans were in possession of that peninsula. The reasons for the etymon given in the text, will be evident, from the description of the place.

that period it continued long the theatre for the display of splendour and luxury. The tradition of the neighbourhood is, that it became the seat of British government, the metropolis of the empire in the time of King Arthur*, whose favourite residence it was, and the place where he displayed much pomp and conviviality with his celebrated knights of the round table.

Notwithstanding the real importance of this place, under the Romans, and its fabled consequence in the annals of romance, it seldom occurs in subsequent ages on the page of history. During the Saxon period, Caradoc of Llancarvan mentions Caerleon but once, when Alfred the Great sent his fleet to subdue it. He was obliged to recall the troops before they had effected the conquest, on account of the progress of the Danes†. The account of its state at the Norman Conquest, is very uncertain and obscure. According to Domesday Book, William de Scohies ‡, a Norman chieftain, held part of the demesnes annexed to the castle in capite of the crown. Till the erection of a castle at Newport, there was no other fortress from Caerdiff to Chepstow; Caerleon, therefore, became the object of numerous contentions between the English and the Welsh, because whoever possessed it, obtained power over an extensive territory. A line of chieftains descended

* The incredible relations in Geoffrey of Monmouth's history of the exploits of this prince, and the legendary stories told respecting the order of knights of the round table, by writers on chivalry, have cast an air of fable over the whole, and induced many persons to doubt the existence of the British Pendragon. Lord Lyttleton, in his History of King Henry the Second, has endeavoured to convert the doubt into negative certainty; but whoever compares his account, with the arguments adduced in support of the page of British history, cannot fail to be convinced, not only of the existence, but of the great prowess displayed by the monarch in question. He was of the Cinethian line of British princes, son of Uther, king of Cornwall; born at Tyntagel, in Cornwall, and flourished in the early part of the sixth century. See Owen's "Cambrian Biography," 12mo. 1803.

† Powell's History of Wales, p. 87.

‡ Under Herefordshire, and is also mentioned under Gloucestershire.

descended from Griffith, prince of South Wales, who assumed the style, "kings of Gwent, and lords of Caerleon," long resided here; and in those intervals, when the castle was taken from them, it became the seat of the Anglo-Norman barons: by one of these the citadel was built, which added greatly to the strength and tenability of the place. About the beginning of the twelfth century it was in possession of Owen Wan, or the Feeble, from whom it was arrested by Robert de Chandos. It was, however, soon afterwards re-possessed by the Welsh; for it was a bone of contention between prince Jorwerth and king Henry the Second, and repeatedly gained and lost by both*. Indeed, frequent accounts of its investiture and obstinate resistance are recorded in the annals of the times. Alternately occupied and ravaged by the contending parties, it was at length permanently possessed by the English on the subjugation of the Welsh, under Edward the First. It was long in possession of the crown; at length came to the family of Morgan, of Lantarnam; and at present is the property of Mr. Blanning.

Caerleon has been represented as no less pre-eminent in the annals of learning and religion, than in ancient military importance. Alexander Elsibensis and Geoffry of Monmouth state, that at the time of the Saxon invasion, the university of this place contained two hundred philosophers, who studied astronomy and other sciences, and instructed others in the same. This, though credited by Camden, Wooton, &c. Mr. Coxe considers as a mere idle assertion. However, there cannot exist a doubt, but a place which had been so eminently distinguished under the Romans, would be the seat of many learned institutions; and after the establishment of christianity by Constantine, literature and religion would consequently fix their seats in the metropolis of the country. At an early period, St. Julius and St. Aaron, two zealous evangelists, suffered martyrdom at this place†, and two chapels

* Powell's Hist. of Wales, p. 197.

† Christianity had evidently been introduced into this island prior to the appointment of Constantine to the Roman command in Britain; for records

chapels were erected to their memory; the one at Penros, and the other at St. Julian's, both in the vicinity of the town. After christianity had spread, Caerleon enjoyed the honour of being the metropolitan see of the Britons, and its primary archbishop was Dubricius; under whose auspices David, uncle of king Arthur, and son of Zanctus, a prince of Wales, successfully opposed the Pelagian heresy. The honour having been resigned by the former to the latter, he removed the archiepiscopal see to Menevia, which afterwards, in honour of him, was denominated St. David's*.

Of its splendour, in the twelfth centry, the description of Gyraldus Cambrensis gives a lively delineation: "Many remains of its former magnificence are still visible; splendid palaces, which once emulated with their gilded† roofs, the grandeur of Rome; for it was originally built by the Roman princes, and adorned with stately edifices; a gigantic tower, numerous baths, ruins of temples, and a theatre, the walls of which are partly standing. Here we still see both within and without the walls, subterraneous buildings, aqueducts, vaulted caverns, and, what appeared to me most remarkable, stoves so excellently contrived, as to diffuse their heat through imperceptible pores."

The ruins at present are very inconsiderable, and the idea of its former state must be gleaned from vestiges which at various times have

lords shew, that several persons suffered martyrdom under the sanguinary and extensive persecution carried on against the christians, in the reign of the cruel emperor Diocletian.

* Godwin de Presulibus.

† A few years ago a quantity of broken tiles was found, which appear to have been nearly in the shape of our pan-tiles, and glazed with a semi-transparent varnish, like the lacker used by japanners. When the sun shone on them, they would assume a brilliant and golden appearance. This custom the Romans probably borrowed from the eastern nations. Sir G. Staunton observed, that various buildings belonging to the palace of the emperor of China, in the city of Pekin, were covered with varnished tiles, which, by the shining of a brilliant sun, appeared like burnished gold.

have been discovered, accounts formerly given, and the suggestions arising from the combination of both. The fortified part of the town was not large; but the suburbs, ramifying in various directions, constituted together a very extensive place. The form appears, from the remains of the dilapidated walls, to have been nearly a parallelogram, having one of its ends curvilinear, and each angle rounded off; it included an area of 530 yards long, by 460 broad. Many parts of the walls are standing, but none of the original height, their present elevation not exceeding fourteen feet; and the greatest thickness is about eleven or twelve. Gyraldus mistook the nature of the materials with which these were constructed, when he described them as bricks; as did also Mr. Harris, when he asserted, that rauges of Roman bricks are visible in the walls of Caerwent and Caerleon. They are formed of lime stones, imbedded in cement, some of which appears to have been tempered with pounded brick: originally they were faced with hewn stone; but, except a small portion, the facings have been removed, for the purposes of building. Part, if not the whole, was environed with a foss. Four gates, one in the centre of each wall, opened to the roads leading to the stations in the other parts of the district. At what time this fortress was erected, or when the walls were built, has not been decided. Camden was of opinion, that the second Augustine legion, formed by Augustus, and dispatched by Claudius from Germany into Britain, under the command of Vespasian, seems to have been at last stationed at Caerleon, under the command of Julius Frontinus, who was sent for the reduction of Siluria. Horsley conjectures, that the Romans first settled here in the reign of Antoninus Pius; for it is mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus, and the walls probably built by Severus, after he had completed his wall in the northern parts of the isle; and this conjecture is supported by inscribed stones, commemorative of him and his sons, and numerous coins of the early empire. In the midst of this fortress, which was probably exclusively occupied by the military, is a concave space, vulgarly denominated King Arthur's

round table, that has had a variety of assignments bestowed upon it by different authors. It has been supposed the site of a magnificent temple, dedicated to the worship of the great goddess of the Ephesians. By others a theatre, for the display of cock-fighting, bear and bull-baitings, or some of those ferocious sports introduced by the Romans into Britain. The form evidently points it out as an ancient *amphitheatre*, for the display of some sportive exhibitions; and perhaps for those sanguinary shews to which the Romans were particularly partial, the contention of gladiators. A question has divided the opinions of the most learned antiquaries respecting this place, whether it were a campestrian or lapidean amphitheatre, like those constructed in the early part of the Roman empire, or those in its more refined and luxurious times. The former kind were circular hollows, surrounded with several rows of seats, ranging above each other, and covered with green sods; the latter were stately buildings, erected in an oval, elliptical, or circular shape, with lofty marble or stone columns, rich entablatures, and a variety of sculptured decorations. Both are finely contrasted, as marking the manners of two distant periods, by a poet of the Augustan age:

> "No pillars then of Egypt's costly stone,
> No purple sails hung waving in the sun,
> No flowers about the scented seats were thrown;
> But sylvan bowers and shady palaces,
> Brought by themselves, secured them from the rays.
> Thus guarded and refreshed with humble green,
> Wondering they gaz'd upon the artless scene;
> Their seats of humble turf the crowd would rear,
> And cover with green boughs their more disordered hair *."

The author of the Secret History of Monmouthshire, speaking of a statue of Diana, says it was found "near a prodigious foundation wall of freestone, on the south side of king Arthur's round table, which was very wide, and supposed to be one side of

* Ovid's Art of Love.

of a Roman amphitheatre." Within the memory of persons still living, on digging about this concavity, the remains of stone seats were discovered. It was therefore probably one of the lapidean structures; and the testimony of Gyraldus, who might have seen some of its walls and pillars standing, amounts almost to demonstrative proof: alluding to the magnificent buildings of Caerleon, he enumerates "*loca theatralia muris egregiis, partim adhuc ambita omnia clausa.*" Though the area within the walls, according to Morrice's plan, in Coxe's Historic Tour, had only a circumference of eighteen hundred yards; yet the suburbs extended to a considerable distance, and are said to have occupied both sides of the river from the present town to St. Julian's, Christchurch, and Lantarnam, and covered a tract of country nearly nine miles round.

"The citie reacht to Creetchurch than
And to St. Gillyan's both;
Which yet appears to view of man,
To try this tale of troth.
There are such vautes and hollow caves,
Such walls and conduits deepe:
Made all like pypes of earthen pots,
Wherein a child may creepe.
Such streates and pavements, sondrie waies,
To every market towne;
Such bridges built in elders daies,
And things of such renowne
As men may muse of to behold*."

Churchyard further says in a note, "I have seen caves underground at this day that goe I know not how farre, all made of excellent work, and goodly greate stones both over head and under foot, and close and fine round about the whole cave." Vestiges of ancient buildings are every where visible in the fields that lie around the walls to a considerable distance. Large foun-

 dations

* Worthines of Wales, p. 23.

dations also have been discovered in the elevated grounds to the north and north-west, particularly beyond the border of Goldcroft Common; and a village to the south of the bridge still retains the old Roman name of *Ultra pontem*. These and numerous other circumstances which might be adduced, evidently prove that the precincts extended far, if not to the distance mentioned by tradition.

Most of the Roman antiquities that have been discovered at Caerleon, have been removed to other places. "The only specimens now remaining are a few coins, in the possession of Miss Morgan; a rude sculpture in basso relievo of a Venus Marina, holding a dolphin in her hand, of which Mr. Wyndham has given an etching in his Tour; and an antique intaglio*." The vestiges of antiquity found at different times may be divided into three classes: 1. structures, or parts of structures; 2. sculptured and inscribed stones; and, 3. medallions, coins, rings, fibulæ, &c. In the year 1755, was discovered in a field near the river, a Roman *sudatory*, formed of columns constructed of round bricks, fourteen inches in diameter, and four thick. In an adjoining room was a *tessellated pavement*, in a perfect state. Several years afterwards bricks, black from fire, were taken up, with leaden pipes, by which the water was conveyed to the bath; and Mr. Harris was informed, that another bath was discovered in an adjoining field. Mr. Aubrey mentions one having been found at St. Julian's in the year 1654. In 1692, a *tessellated pavement* was discovered by workmen ploughing in a field. It had variegated borders of blue, white, and red tessella; and within were the figures of birds of the same colours; and the rest of the area was formed of brown and white: it was about fourteen feet in diameter. The pavement, on which a statue of Diana lay, was gone, when Horsley visited the place. The four columns which support the present market-house in Caerleon, are of the Tuscan order, short and massive; and Mr. Coxe supposes they belonged to

* Coxe's Hist. Tour, p. 85.

to some ancient Roman structure, as two bases of similar dimensions and workmanship have lately been dug up near the walls. Some elegant cap-stones of a cornice, lately found, he considers as having formed part of the decorations of a splendid Roman temple. Several inscribed pillars were recently dug up near the centre of the old city, and from a number of these with squared stones, and other striking vestiges which at different periods have been discovered on this spot, it has been considered the site of the temple of Diana. Of the existence of such, the votive stone mentioned by Camden, bearing the following inscription, has been adduced as proof:

T. FL. POSTVMIVS VARVS
V. C. LEG. TEMPL. DIANÆ
RESTITVIT.

The figure on the tessellated pavement he describes as clad "in tuckt up garments, with a quiver, but without head, hands, or feet." At the same time was found the fragment of a *votive altar*, having the subjoined inscription, in letters three inches long; erected as is supposed by, but more probably for, Haterianus, the emperor's lieutenant, and proprætor of Cilicia.

——ISVS C. L.
..
ILLIVS Q. J.
HATERIANVS
LEG. AVG. PR PR
PROVINC. CILIC.

Several other *votive altars* have been discovered, amongst which have been particularly noticed; one to the emperor Aurelius Antoninus, and Severus Lucius, his son, with an allusion to the second Augustine legion; another, in which Jupiter has the epithet Dolichenus applied to him, allusive to his being the protector of iron mines; and a third, dedicated to Severus Anto-

ninus and Geta, contains the word Cæsar added to the latter name, which has tended to perplex antiquarian inquisition. Mr. Wyndham mentions a piece of sculptured stone, containing in basso relievo, a figure of Amphitrite *, in a reclining posture, with a dolphin sporting in her right hand; and on the reverse side, the carving of a large marine shell. At the church of Tredynnog is preserved a monument, still entire, for a soldier belonging to the second Augustine legion. Numerous fragments of inscribed stones are to be seen in the houses and other buildings in the town. The different fragments of Roman pottery, ornamented with a variety of figures and emblematic devices, shew to what a degree of perfection the fictile art had been carried at that period. Quantities of bricks have been repeatedly dug up, bearing upon their faces *Leg. II. Aug.;* and a few tiles, some of an oblong, and others of a triangular shape, bearing a similar inscription. Coins, of every period of the Roman empire, have been discovered here, and many rare ones of great consideration with the collectors of medals and the lovers of numismatology. A parcel of very scarce ones was found a few years since under one of the arches of Caerleon bridge, among which were some of the emperor Hadrian, bearing on the reverse the unusual emblem, *Britannia.* Other miscellaneous antiquities have been found, and placed in the cabinets of the curious; such as bronze figures, lamps, fibulæ, seals, rings, &c. &c.; and many of the poor inhabitants during the winter find a profitable employment in digging at an adventure, in quest of more.

Leaving the vestiges of Roman grandeur, Caerleon has yet remains that point to remote periods. According to Domesday Book, it had a *Castle* at the time of the Norman conquest; but it is at present difficult to trace exactly the site of this celebrated fortress, which resisted, so repeatedly, the assaults of the successive invaders; while the town, notwithstanding its Roman fortifications, frequently fell into the hands of the assailants. The works

* This is the Venus Marina of Mr. Coxe, previously mentioned.

works of this fortress, which from the remains are evidently British, appear to have extended in a line between the south side of the Roman wall and the river; a circular tower, near the Hanbury Arms, points out one termination, and another is found in two round bastion towers upon the margin of the Usk. An ancient arched doorway in the circular tower, has led some to suppose it a Roman structure; but on a comparison with the works near the river, both seem to accord with the style of other buildings erected subsequent to the Romans leaving the island. The remains of the gigantic tower, mentioned by Gyraldus, and which Mr. Wyndham saw, are now no more; the mount only on which it was constructed is left. Churchyard describes it as remaining in his time:

> "It stands upon a forced hill,
> Not farre from flowing flood;
> Where loe ye view long vales at will,
> Envyron all with wood,
> A seat for any king alive *."

In Bridge-street are the remains of a portal, that probably formed an entrance to the castle. It consists of a dilapidated round tower, with a groove for a portcullis.

After experiencing such numerous vicissitudes, and figuring so strongly in the records of locality, this Roman-British city is reduced, with respect to its population, to the size of a village; the number of inhabitants not amounting to more than 667, including those of the village of Ultra Pontem, on the other side of the river; and the houses to 148. The present town lies more to the east than the ancient Isca Silurum, and its ecclesiastical name, Llangatoc Juxta Caerleon, points out this fact. The ancient site principally consists of fields, orchards, and gardens, and the buildings of the modern town are scattered over a considerable space of ground.



* Worthines of Wales, p. 24.

Here was an *abbey* for Cistercian monks, who, Tanner observes, were granted the privilege by King John, of being exempt from toll at the city of Bristol. An old house in the High-street, and some few adjoining tenements, form the remains of the monastery.

The *Church*, a good, though not a remarkably handsome edifice, in the pointed style, is dedicated to St. Cadoc*; and a free-school was endowed by Charles Williams, Esq.

The *Bridge* is an object worthy of the traveller's observation; and since the demolishing a similar structure at Newport, has justly become interesting to investigating curiosity. "The wooden bridge over the Usk, may be considered similar to that erected by the Romans; the frame is not unlike the carpentry of Cæsar's bridge over the Rhine, which he has described in his Commentaries, and of which Stukeley has given a plan in the second volume of his Itinerarium Curiosum. The floor, supported by ten lofty piers, is level, and divided by posts and rails into rooms or beds of boards, each twelve feet in length; the apparently loose and disjointed state of the planks, and the clattering noise which they make under the pressure of a heavy weight, have not unfrequently occasioned alarm to those who are unused to them. Some travellers, from a superficial view of the structure, have asserted, that the planks are placed loose to admit the tide through their interstices, when it rises above the bridge, and which would, if they were fixed, force them from the frame, and carry them away. But in fact, the tide has never been known to rise above the bridge, nor was the flooring constructed to obviate this inconvenience. Formerly the planks were fastened at each extremity with iron nails; but the wood being liable to split, and the

* St. Cadocus, or Cadoc, was the son of Gunleus, or St. Woolas, by his wife, Gladusa, daughter of Braghan, prince of that part of the country now denominated Brecknockshire. St. Cadoc flourished in the early part of the sixth century, and built a church and monastery at Llancarvan, in Glamorganshire, became abbot, and was succeeded in the abbacy by Ellenius, whom Leland styles "an excellent disciple of an excellent master."

the nails frequently forced up by the elastic agitation of the beams, under the pressure of heavy carriages, the planks were secured from rising by horizontal rails fastened to the posts, and prevented from slipping sideways by a peg at each end within the rail. The height of the water, at extraordinary tides, exceeds thirty feet; but though it has never risen above the floor, yet the united body of a high tide, and the floods to which the Usk is subject, have been known to carry away parts of the bridge*." The last accident of this kind happened in the year 1772. A bridge of stone, about to be erected, will soon supersede this curious wooden structure.

The *Tin-works*, belonging to Mr. Butler, in the vicinity of this place, "are capable of manufacturing annually from 14,000 to 20,000 boxes of tin plates, containing each from 200 to 300 plates. Iron plates are rolled; also patent iron rods, ship bolts, and square iron bars. The machinery of the mill is worthy of notice: it is wholly of iron; the two fly-wheels, with the water-wheel, and their combined powers, weigh seventy-five tons, and make forty-five revolutions in one minute. It is proposed to annex another system of powers to the same water-wheel, by which a weight of twenty tons will be added, and the whole revolve with the same velocity †." It is said that large vessels formerly came up to the quay at Caerleon: but since the erection of a bridge at Newport, those have always been unladen at that port.

The gardens and orchards of Caerleon are strewed with immense quantities of cinders, which contain much iron. They are denominated Roman cinders, and are doubtless the remains of ore, imperfectly smelted by the Romans in their open bloomeries. Fragments of this kind have been discovered in many parts of the kingdom, particularly in the Forest of Dean. In some parts of Monmouthshire, the profits drawn from the Roman cinders has in several instances defrayed the expense of purchasing the fee simple of the land.

The

* Coxe's Hist. Tour, p. 101. † Ibid, p. 100.

The Roman soldiers stationed in this country were usually exercised and lay encamped during the summer season; and four *encampments* for this purpose, to which Mr. Harris justly gives the name of campa æstiva, are yet visible in the environs of Caerleon; two on the north side, viz. Llantarnam and Penros; and two on the south, Maindee and St. Julian's. Mr. Coxe observes, "neither of them seems to bear a positive Roman origin." This may be easily accounted for, by considering the various and continued warfare this part of the kingdom witnessed for many centuries. The British fortresses frequently were converted into summer camps for the Romans, again occupied by the Britons after the departure of the former, and successively became the stations of the armies that in different periods besieged Caerleon. The Romans were accustomed to form camps in the vicinity of their stations for the protection of their cattle; and such was probably the small circular camp, with a single foss and rampart, doubled on the north side, near Mayndee House. The encampment at St. Julian's, now inclosed in the wood, Mr. Coxe supposes, from its southern side being only secured by a natural ravine, could never be intended for the defence of Caerleon, but for its investiture; and that it was a Saxon work, formed by Harold to command the pass of the river, and to aid in the reduction of that fortress. On an eminence, just above the Avon-Lwyd, at Penros, is an encampment in the form of a parallelogram, with five bastions, one at each angle, and one nearly in the centre of the south side. This, which was originally a Roman camp*, is said to have been altered and strengthened with bastions during the civil wars, in the time of Charles the First. But the most considerable of these encampments is that called the Lodge, in Lantarnam Park, which bears marks of a period anterior to the Roman invasion; and these circumstances, corroborated by the account in the British Chronicles, of Beli, a British prince, having built a city on the Usk, and the place formerly having been known

* Vestiges of the prætorium appear in the north-east corner of the area.

known under the appellation of Belingstoke, have led to the probable conjecture already noticed, that this was the site of a British town, previous to the arrival of the Romans. The encampment is of an elliptical shape, comprising an area of about one hundred and twenty yards in diameter at its greatest breadth, and two hundred and eighty in length: the entrenchments, which are in some places thirty feet deep, consist of a double foss and vallum, except on the south and south-west, where there are four fossa and four valla; the entrance on the west side is defended by a tumulus, nearly forty feet in height, placed on the inner ramparts*. At St. Julian's and Penros, tessellated pavements, and various other Roman antiquities, were formerly discovered, which have led to the opinion, that at both these places were elegant Roman villas, seats of the commanders of the district, or of some persons of the equestrian order.

Near the Roman road, which passed by Penros from Caerleon to Usk, now denominated the upper road, in the parish of Langibby, or *Llangybi*, stand the remains of *Castell Tregreg*. These consist of a square tower, in a dilapidated state, fragments of walls, and foundations, which inclosed a large, oblong area, now converted into an orchard. From the parts of pointed arches,

* Churchyard observes:

"Now must I touch a matter fit to knowe,
A fort and strength that stands beyond this towne: (Caerleon)
* * * * * *
Ten thousand men may lodge them there unseen,
In treble dykes that guards the fortresse well:
And yet amid the fort, a goodly greene,
Where that a power and mighty campe may dwell,
In spyte of world, if soldiours victuall have.
The hill so stands, if bird but wing doe wave,
Or man or beast but once stirre up the head,
A bowe above, with shaft shall strike it dead.
The hill commaunds a marvels way and scope;
It seems it stood far off for townes defence,
And in the warres it was *Caerleon's hope*."

*Worthines of Wales*, p. 49.

arches, it was probably constructed in the early Anglo-Norman era, was anciently in possession of the Clares, earls of Gloucester, and formed the dower of Maud, widow of Gilbert, the last male heir of that line. During the civil wars, in the time of Charles the First, it was a place of some importance as a fortress, and then in the possession of *Mr. Trevor Williams*, who was created a baronet in the year 1641. Both the fortress and its owner were afterwards subjects of apprehension and dread to the usurper Cromwell; for he issued orders for the baronet's arrest, and at the same time states him to be a dangerous man, in terms which betray the mental malignity of the one, and the high esteem and veneration entertained for the character of the other*. Sir Trevor, at the commencement of the civil wars, like many constitutional and loyal men, disgusted at the arbitrary proceedings of the monarch, sided with the parliament, and for a time he adhered to that interest, and distinguished himself at the siege of Raglan Castle; but witnessing the evils of revolutionary proceedings, and the tyranny and oppression which invariably spring from equalizing principles, he seceded from the parliamentary, and espoused the royal cause. In that he displayed equal fervour, and evinced the utmost energy and activity. He became a powerful auxiliary in the restoration of monarchy, and lived to an advanced age, highly respected, and died universally lamented.

LANGIBBY HOUSE, situated near the ruins of the castle, is said to have been built by Inigo Jones; but though the apartments are convenient and well proportioned, there is nothing striking in the architecture to point out the hand of that celebrated

* "Hee is a man (as I am informed) full of craft and subtelty, very bould and resolute; hath a house, Langebie, well stored with armes and very stronge; his neighbours about him very malignant, and much for him, whoe are apt to rescue him, if apprehended, much more to discover any thinge which may prevent itt." Harris's Life of Oliver Cromwell.

brated master. It is at present the residence of William Williams, Esq.

## USK,

called by the Britons *Brunebegie*, for Burenbegie or Brynbyga; by Gyraldus, Castrum Isca; and by the English, Usk; is situated on a lingula or tongue of land formed by the confluence of the Olwy with the Usk, just below the point where the latter river is joined by the rivulet called Birrhyn or Birthin. Though scarcely a vestige of Roman remains has ever, at least in modern times, been discovered at this place, all antiquaries, with the exception of Salmon, who makes this the site of Isca Silurum, have unanimously agreed to fix here the station *Burrium* of Antoninus' Itinerary, and the *Bullæum* of Ptolemy. The proofs have been drawn from its square form *, its situation at the confluence of two rivers, from the name of Burrium, supposed to be found in the first part of the word Birthin, or the British appellation Brynbyga; but the most convincing argument is deduced from the exact coincidence of the distances between this place, Caerleon, Abergavenny, and Monmouth, with those between Burrium, Isca Silurum, Gobannium, and Blestium, and when no other place besides in the vicinity has the smallest pretensions, this reasoning must be decisive. Usk is evidently a place of high antiquity, and has been, from the vestiges at present visible, of much larger extent, and much greater importance. It is supposed to have been a British town, from *bwr*, which signifies an entrenchment; but this is mere conjecture, the elevated embankments of earth opposite Llanbaddoc, which have been represented as ancient ramparts, were only thrown up as dykes to protect the place from the ravages committed by the frequent inundations of the river Olwy.

The

* The form of the present town is not square; but sufficient vestiges do not remain to ascertain exactly what might have been its ancient shape.

The history of the *Castle* furnishes the most early written records of the place; and though, from some of its architectural features, it was of Roman or Roman-British origin; yet the remotest notice which has hitherto been discovered is, that it formed part of the possessions of Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester, in the time of Henry the Third; and probably descended to him from Gilbert de Clare, who first invaded this part of the country in the time of Henry the First: from that family it came to the Mortimers, earls of March. Edmund Mortimer dying without issue, in the third year of Henry the Sixth, his vast possessions were granted to his nephew, Richard, duke of York; and of this descendant and father of kings, this castle appears to have been a favourite residence:—

> "A castle there in Oske doth yet remaine,
> A seat where kings and princes have been borne:

King Edward the Fourth and his children (as some affirm), and king Richard the Third were born here*." On the death of Richard, the castle of Usk became the property of Henry the Seventh. It afterwards belonged to William Herbert, first earl of Pembroke; and at present the Duke of Beaufort is the proprietor. No fortress in Monmouthshire perhaps experienced more frequent assaults than this, during the alternate successes of the Welsh chieftains and the Anglo-Norman lords; and it suffered particularly, together with the town, in the ravages of Owen Glyndwr, who, after being in possession, and committing the most ruthless devastations, at length here met with a complete defeat, his army being totally routed, and he constrained to fly for safety to his native mountains. It was in a very dilapidated state in the time of Elizabeth; for Churchyard describes the towers so "torne with wether's blast, and time that wears all out," as not to be sufficiently interesting to entertain his muse. The present remains, which stand on an abrupt eminence to the east

* Churchyard's Worthines of Wales, p. 19.

east of the river, consist of a shell inclosing a court, the principal entrance to which is by a tower gateway, having a pointed arch, with a groove for a portcullis. The area, of considerable extent, is surrounded by straight walls, flanked with round and square towers, destitute of windows, but having occasional narrow apertures. Within are the keep, a square tower, and several apartments, one of which appears to have been the baronial hall, and measures forty-eight feet long, by twenty-four broad.

A PRIORY was founded in Usk by one of the earls of Clare, for nuns of the Benedictine order, some time previous to the year 1236. The annual revenues at the Dissolution amounted, according to Dugdale, to 55l. 4s. 5d.; and the site was granted to Roger Williams, of Langibby. A few remains of the building are still standing on the south-east side of the church; and in an apartment on the first-floor, the frieze of the ceiling is decorated with thirty emblematic devices and emblazoned arms; probably the coats of benefactors to the priory.

Usk is a borough town, and since the 27th of Henry the Eighth, has been privileged with elective franchise, being represented, in conjunction with Newport and Monmouth, by one member of parliament. The charter, under which it is governed by a bailiff or mayor, community, and burgesses, was granted by Elizabeth de Burg, and confirmed by her son Roger de Mortimer, earl of March, by a deed, dated at his castle of Usk, A. D. 1398; as appears from a renewal of it by his son, Edmund, in the year 1415, the former having been destroyed in the conflagration enkindled by the soldiers under the ferocious Glyndwr. The town, which still has a weekly market on Mondays, though of considerable extent, contains but 152 houses, and 734 inhabitants. Several ways bear the names of streets, but they scarcely deserve the appellation; for the houses in general are isolated, having gardens, orchards, and paddocks intervening; which, though they give an irregularity to the town, tend much to the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants. In a place so reduced from

its

its former consequence*, few buildings can be expected worthy of notice, either from their magnificence or architectural interest.

The *Church*, which belonged to the priory, appears to have been erected in the early Anglo-Norman era. By foundations yet remaining, it was built cruciform, in the manner of a cathedral. The square embattled tower, now standing at the east end, was in the centre, and appears to have communicated with a transept and choir, both of which have long been destroyed. The building has undergone many alterations: the circular columns and arches of the tower exhibit the Norman character; but the nave is separated from the north aile by four pointed arches, and the windows and doorways are in the same style. Few sepulchral monuments arrest the attention of the curious visitor; but an inscription, which was first published in the second volume of the Archaeologia, thence copied into Gough's edition of the Britannia, and since professedly given more correct by Mr. Coxe†; has for more than half a century been a perplexing subject to antiquaries, and still appears to defy critical inquisition. The learned Dr. Wotton supposed it was a mixture of Roman and British, and an epitaph on a professor of astronomy in the British philosophical institute at Caerleon ‡. This idea was taken up by Harris, Strange, Gough, and others, though with some little variation as to its detailed meaning. Mr. Willliam Owen supposes

* In the course of sinking wells and digging trenches for foundations of buildings, three ranges of *pavement* were discovered, and *pitched roads* were traced in an adjacent field. In a close, denominated Cae pura, near the turnpike road leading to Caerwent, a few years ago a paved road was found under ground, formed of hewn stones, placed in the Roman manner, edgeways; and was probably part of the old Roman road, that extended from Burrium to Venta Silurum. Many ancient houses are in ruins, and of some only the foundations remain.

† Hist. Tour. Appendix, No. 7.

‡ "The letters which Dr. Wotton mistook for that word are, yar llc'yn, and have a very different signification." Coxe's Hist. Tour, p. 132.

supposes it is purely Welsh, and written in the dialect of Gwent, as used in the middle ages, and gives a diametrically opposite interpretation*. Finding that no two persons, well skilled in the language in which it appears to be written, agree; the matter seems still lis sub judice est, and the field yet open for inquiry and conjecture. The inscription is on a brass plate, and fastened by nails against two of the pews.

The *Bridge* is a stone structure of five circular arches, flanked on each side by triangular buttresses, rising from the abutments to the centre by that gentle curvature, which, while it adds to the beauty of the object, gives little inconvenience to the passing traveller.

The common prison, near the foot of the bridge, was formerly a Roman catholic chapel.

The town has no trade, and only a small manufactory of Japan ware, to no considerable extent. Some of the inhabitants derive advantages from its being a thoroughfare; some are employed in husbandry, and a few gain their livelihood by the salmon fishery. The Usk abounds with fish, but particularly salmon; and several weirs have been long established on the river in the vicinity of the town. Such celebrity had it acquired in the time of Elizabeth, that the amusing itinerary poet could not suffer it to escape his notice:

> "Great store of fish is caught within this flood,
> That doth indeed both town and country good†."

The *salmon* of the Severn, the Wye, the Towy, and the Tivy, have been variously esteemed for their flavour; but the boon of excellence has by most epicures, who have had the opportunity of making a comparison, been bestowed on those caught in the



* Hist. Tour, Appendix, No. 7. In this appendix is another interpretation given by the Rev. Mr. Evans, of Caereu; but both are far from satisfactory, because devoid of identity.

† Churchyard's Worthines of Wales, p. 19.

Usk. A striking peculiarity also presents itself in the fishery of this river, viz. the people here fish successfully for salmon nearly through all the months in the year, which must to some appear extraordinary, when it is considered that salmon are migratory fish, leaving the fresh water rivers for the sea, soon after they have deposited their spawn; and that existing statutes prohibit the taking them from the end of March till the beginning of November*. It is observed, that "the season for fishing in the Tweed begins November the 30th; but the fishermen work very little till after Christmas: it ends on Michaelmas day; yet the corporation (who are conservators of the peace of the river) indulge the fishermen with a fortnight after that time, on account of the change of the style†." Thus it appears an occurrence otherwise singular, happens in other rivers beside the Usk, and it evidently arises from the same cause. Not from any peculiarity in the fish frequenting them, or any particular inducement that the fish have to stay; but from their being prevented returning by well constructed weirs, and no laws existing for preventing the destruction of them in these, as is the case in other rivers. An acquaintance with this fact led Churchyard to sing—

"A thing to note; when sammon failes in Wye,
(And season there, goes out as order is)
Than still of course in Oske doth sammons lye,
And of good fish, in Oske you shall not mis.
And this seems straunge, as doth through Wales appear,
In some one place, are sammons all the yeere;

So

* By an Act of Parliament, in the 13th of Edward the First, it is prohibited under a severe penalty to capture salmon from the Nativity of the Virgin, commonly called Lady-day, to St. Martin's day, the 11th of November, in the waters of the Humber, Ouse, Trent, Don, Aire, Derwent Wharfe, Nid, Yare, Swale, and Tees. And subsequent statutes have provided for the security of the fisheries in other rivers; and have also attached penalties to the exposing the fish for sale.

† Pennant's British Zoology, Vol. III. p. 290.

So fresh, so sweete, so red, so crimp withall,
That man might say, loe, sammon here at call*."

A description of a weir may not be inappropriate at this place: it is the one at *Trostrey*, little to the north-west of the town of Usk. "An embankment of stakes and stones is thrown diagonally across the river, between two and three hundred yards in length; in the middle of the weir is a vacancy, provided with an iron grate, through which a considerable body of the river rushes with great impetuosity. At the lower part of the weir, on one side of this stream, is a large wooden box, perforated with holes to admit the water and air, with an aperture, to which is affixed a long round wicker basket, resembling a tunnel. This aperture is closed with a small iron grate, which opens within the box like a trap-door, and falls to its original position by its own weight. A square wooden frame, similar to those used at mills for the purpose of catching eels, extends nearly across the whole of the stream below the large iron grate, leaving only sufficient room for the salmon. The fish in his migration is obliged to ascend this narrow opening; and having passed the wooden frame, is stopped by the grate. Instead of retreating down the narrow pass, by which he ascended, he turns sideways, is hurried by the rapidity of the stream along a narrow current, leading through the tunnel, forces up the trap-door, which immediately falls down behind him, and is thus secured in the box†." Mr. Donovan‡ mentions what is considered a peculiar method of dressing and curing the fish after they are taken, which probably tends to render them more palatable when caught out of season. This is by cutting the fish in pieces of a convenient size for dressing, and parboiling them in spring water. These pieces are then allowed to cool; and when required for the table, are to be

 boiled

* Worthines of Wales, p. 19.

† Coxe's Hist. Tour, p. 160.

‡ Descriptive Excursions through South Wales and Monmouthshire, Vol. I. p. 160.

boiled in the former liquor, carefully kept for the purpose. By this process the flesh requires a peculiar degree of firmness, crimpness, and delicacy of flavour. It is proper to observe, that the fish must undergo the operation of crimping, by parboiling, immediately after it is caught, or at farthest in a few hours; for unless such precaution be taken, it is observed from experience that the flesh becomes flabby and bad.

In the vicinity of Usk are several ancient *encampments:* indeed, as Wales has justly been denominated a castellated country, this may, with equal propriety, be called a castellated district. Almost every two or three miles exhibits vestiges of hostile positions, and indelible marks appear of sanguinary footsteps, and heroes slain. The limits assigned to this work will only permit a brief and succinct account of a few, referring the inquiring mind to works occasionally quoted, and to ocular investigation. *Craeg y Gaercyd,* supposed by Harris to have been a Roman encampment, is situated about two miles to the north-west of the town of Usk, on an eminence overhanging the river. The shape is irregular, defended on one side by the Usk, and on the other by deep fossa and valla, which are thirty feet deep and high. Several tumuli or barrows are within the area, from fifteen to twenty feet in height. *Camp-wood,* so called from being overgrown with trees, at the end of Gwhelwg Common, is of an eliptical shape, about seven hundred yards in circumference, and environed by a single foss and vallum. A chain of these fortified posts seems to have stretched away from Cats-ash over the ridge of land that terminates in the Pencamawr, and which is supposed to have been the site of a British, but more probably a Roman road, that branched off from the line of the Julia strata to Blestium. The commencement of the line is at *Coed y caerau,* in the hundred of Caldecot, to the west of Caerleon, where are several encampments; and beyond the Pencamawr, in the same direction at *Wolves Newton,* are two. *Cwrt-y-gaer* is a small circular encampment, which appears to have had its ramparts formed of stone, and remains of walls indicate that it was probably defended

by

by bastion towers. It is about 190 feet in diameter, and surrounded by a double foss and vallum. *Gaer-fawr*, or *Vawr*, lying between what is termed the Golden Hill and the Devaudon, is the largest encampment in the county, from whence it takes the epithet fawr. This was the site of a British town, and, from the immense depth of the fossa and height of the valla, was probably occupied by the Saxons in their predatory excursions; and subsequently by other contending parties, as the central position among strongly fortified stations, must have rendered it a place of great importance to possess in the ages of intestine conflict.

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## RAGLAN HUNDRED,

situated to the north of that of Usk, is less mountainous than the former, and watered with fewer streams than any hundred in the county. It is, however, a fine fertile district, abounding in rich arable and pasture lands, and pleasingly diversified with gentle elevations and depressions, with occasional vallies and hills.

The HIGHER DIVISION contains the parishes of *Chapel Hill, Cumcarvan, Kilgwrwg, Landogo, Langoven, Lanishen, Lansoy, Lanvihangel Tormynydd, Michael Troy, Penalth, Trelleck, Tyntern* Little, and *Wolves Newton**. In the LOWER DIVISION are the parishes of *Bettus Newydd, Bringwyn, Dingestow Landenny, Penrose, Penny Clouth, Raglan,* and *Tregare.*



* *Wolves Newton* is in the hundred of Usk. It may be proper here to remark, that as the list of parishes contained in the respective hundreds had from the commencement been copied from the returns made to parliament respecting the poor, it was thought adviseable not to deviate; though as to names and distribution, so far as it respects Wales and Monmouthshire, they are far from correct.

RAGLAN, better known by the name of Ragland, is a small village, celebrated in the annals of never-dying fame, for its *Castle*, which was once the proud residence of the most noble family of Somerset. It was called by Camden the beautiful and castle-like seat of the Marquis of Worcester. It stands on a gentle eminence at a small distance from the village, in the western part of the hundred. This fortress is apparently, from the present remains, less ancient than any in the county, the earliest style perceivable in the building, not being older than the time of Henry the Fifth, and some portions were erected so late as the reign of Charles the First; though a castellated mansion previously stood upon the site in the time of Sir John Morley*. This fortress was probably erected by William ap Thomas, and his son the earl of Pembroke; but parts were afterwards added by the earls of Worcester, and the citadel by the gallant marquis of Worcester, whose conduct will immortalize the name of Raglan as long as the records of time shall last. A short sketch of the life of this truly great man will furnish the most interesting account of this far-famed fortress.

HENRY SOMERSET, fifth earl, and first marquis of Worcester, lived in those troublesome times, when decision of character, or the hypocritical assumption of it, is essential to preserve a man from becoming the victim of an outrageous faction. He was born in the year 1562, and was summoned as a peer to parliament, in the life-time of his father, by king James. Though endued

* Dugdale, in his Baronage, observes, that the great family of Clare was seized of the castle of Raglan; and Richard Strongbow, the last male heir of that line, gave the castle and manor, in the time of Henry the Second, to Walter Bloet; from whom it came to the family of Berkley. But in another document (article Lord Herbert, of Cherbury), he states, that Sir John Morley, who lived in the time of Richard the Second, resided in this castle; and that his daughter and heiress conveyed it by marriage into the family of Herbert. From the Herberts it came to the Somersets, in which it is at present vested. Henry Charles, duke of Beaufort, being the present proprietor.

endued with shining abilities, and possessed of ample fortune, he does not appear to have made that display of either, which occasions notoriety or procures fame. He is but twice mentioned by Camden, in his life of that monarch. In the year 1642, at which time the earl was created marquis of Worcester, he raised for the service of the unfortunate Charles the First an army of 1500 foot and 500 horse; placed them under the command of his son, lord Herbert, afterwards earl of Glamorgan, and supported them at his own expense. After an ineffectual struggle with the parliamentary generals in different parts of South Wales, he recalled the shattered remains of this little army, and with them shut himself up in his castle of Raglan; which he obstinately defended against a protracted siege by the parliamentarian forces under the command of Sir Thomas Fairfax: and it was solely owing to the influence and heroic intrepidity, which he evinced in defence of his castle, that Monmouthshire so long resisted the rebel arms, and retarded the annihilation of royal authority within the county. This event, which distinguishes Raglan Castle in the annals of British history, tends to elucidate the manners and spirit of the times. During the civil commotions, the king, after the battle of Naseby and his quitting Oxford, made several visits to Raglan, where he was entertained in the most princely style of magnificence. Here he often found a secure and pleasant retreat, and in the earl, a philosopher, guide, and friend; to whom, had he attentively listened, and steadily adhered to his maxims, he would most probably have saved both his life and his crown. One, among the many instances of that monarch's mental imbecility recorded, which demonstrates how incapable he was to wield a sceptre in such perilous and precarious times, is the following. Sir Trevor Williams, and four other gentlemen of this county, having been arrested as rebels and sent to Abergavenny, the king went in person to sit on their trials, which must have ended in their conviction; on which occasion, moved by the tears and intreaties of Sir Trevor, he was induced to forego the opportunity of making a strong example, and

suffered the knight to be released on bail, and committed the others only to temporary confinement. On the monarch apologizing to the marquis for his lenity, the latter replied, "Well, Sir, you may chance to gain you the kingdom of heaven, by such doings as these; but if ever you get the kingdom of England by such ways, I will be your bondman*." While the king remained at Raglan, the marquis made use of every stratagem to divert his royal mind from the unhappy state of his affairs, and many bon mots are related that passed on the occasion, some of which are published in his Apothegms. When the king thanked him for several loans he had advanced to support the royal cause, he returned for answer, "Sir, I had your word for the money; but I never thought I should have been so soon repaid; for now you have given me thanks, I have all I looked for." Several other conversations are detailed in a contemporary publication†, which shew the extreme condescension of the king, and the humorous garrulity of the venerable marquis.

After the king's departure, the castle was summoned to surrender to the parliamentarian forces under Col. Morgan, June 3d, 1646; having previously been slightly invested by a corps commanded by Sir Trevor Williams. Repeated summonses having been refused, Sir Thomas Fairfax came from Bath, to command in person. After several, but ineffectual sallies, to prevent the approach of the besiegers, the garrison began to be much reduced, and no tidings of relief arriving, the marquis surrendered by capitulation, on terms honourable both to the besiegers and the besieged, on the 19th of August, after an obstinate resistance of ten weeks. The garrison and inhabitants marched out with all the honours of war; and consisted of the venerable governor, then

* Apothegms of the Marquis of Worcester.

† "Witty Apothegms, delivered at several Times and on several Occasions, by King James, King Charles the First, and the Marquis of Worcester." London, 1658, octavo. This work is supposed to have been written by the Rev. Dr. Bailey, subdean of Wells, the friend of the marquis. Vide Wood's Athenæ Oxoniensis.

then more than fourscore years of age, lord Charles Somerset, his sixth son, sir Philip and lady Jones, Dr. Bailey, and commissary Gwillin; together with four colonels, eighty-two captains, sixteen lieutenants, six cornets, four ensigns, four quarter-masters, fifty-two esquires and gentlemen, and about seven hundred common men*. In the letters which passed between the marquis and Fairfax, the former strongly suspected that the parliament would refuse to ratify the articles granted by the latter. His apprehensions were well founded. He had held too distinguished a situation, and had been too decidedly loyal, to expect any performance of promises of clemency from men who had long been habituated to the dereliction of the most solemn and imperious duties. On his arrival in London, under a false pretext, that he had violated the articles of capitulation, he was committed to the custody of the black-rod; and the subsequent cruel usage he received, obliged him most bitterly to lament that he had cast himself upon the mercy of parliament. "Ah! Dr. Bailey," he said a few hours before his death, "if I had made use of the articles you had procured in my behalf, I had not now been so near the end of my life, and the beginning of my happiness. I forsook life, liberty, and estate†, which I might have had, and threw myself upon their mercy; which, when I had done, if to seize upon all my goods, to pull down my house, to sell my estate, and to send up for such a weak body as mine was, so enfeebled by disease, in the dead of winter, and in the winter of mine age, be merciful; what are they whose mercies are so cruel? Neither do I expect that they should stop at all this; for I fear that they will persecute me after my death." But on being informed, that the parliament

* See Rushworth's Collections, where the correspondence which passed during the siege is detailed at length.

† The amount of the losses sustained by himself, and his family, in support of the royal cause, it would be impossible to calculate. Large loans were, at different times, granted to the king, two armies were maintained at their expense, the woods and forests belonging to the marquis were destroyed, and his estates confiscated, amounting to 20,000l. per annum.

parliament would permit him to be buried in his family vault in Windsor, he cried out with great vivacity, "Why, God bless us all! why then I shall have a better castle when I am dead, than they took from me whilst I was alive." Whether this nobleman be viewed as the hero, or the christian, his character demands the highest respect and veneration. Though so hardly pressed in a castle, not calculated for much defence, he defended it for a considerable length of time, and to the last extremity; till there was no provender for the horses, and the powder was reduced to the last barrel; and then obtained such terms as are seldom granted, but when the assailants act under the influence of apprehension that the siege will be difficult and long. Contemplate him again in the trying hour of adversity, and the page of history does not present a character in which christian fortitude was more strikingly exemplified, or from which a more useful lesson may be learned of humility and resignation.

The castle was dismantled by order of the parliament; and, in addition to the injuries it received on that occasion, very considerable dilapidations were occasioned by the numerous tenants being allowed to take the stone for erecting barns and other outhouses; and even the steward constructed new farm-houses of the materials. During these devastations, no less than twenty-three staircases were removed; but the late duke of Beaufort had no sooner succeeded to his estates, than he immediately ordered that not a single stone more should be touched, and thus laudably prevented the entire demolition of these magnificent remains. They are situated on a moderate eminence, about a mile from the village, and, including the citadel, occupy a space nearly one third of a mile in circumference. The citadel, called Melyn-y-Gwent, or the yellow tower of Gwent, was of an hexangular form, each side thirty-three feet broad; the walls of which are of hewn stone, ten feet thick, defended by bastions, environed with a moat, and connected with the castle by a drawbridge. When entire, it was five stories high; but the greater part is down: a stone staircase leads to the top of one of its bastion towers, from which

is

is a delightful prospect over the surrounding country. Raised terraces extended round the citadel; and in the walls are broken niches, in which were formerly placed statues of the Roman emperors. The castle was faced with hewn free-stone, which gave it a light appearance. The grand entrance is very magnificent, formed by a fine portal, with a pointed arch, and is flanked with two massive hexagonal towers, one of which is intirely covered with ivy, and the other tufted with it. A third tower, not so high, but with its machicolated summit, adds to the picturesque appearance. The gateway, containing grooves for two portcullises, leads into the first court, once paved, but now grown over with grass and brambles. On the southern side was a grand suite of apartments; and the eastern and northern sides contained ranges of culinary and other offices. The large bow window of the hall, at the south-western extremity of this court, is richly decorated with stone tracery, and canopied with ivy. The stately hall, which appears to have been erected in the time of Elizabeth, was sixty-six feet long and twenty-eight feet broad, had a curious roof of Irish oak, and a dome above for the admission of light. At the extremity are the arms of the first marquis of Worcester, executed in stone. The fire-place is remarkable for its size, and the peculiar structure of the chimney, forming a striking vestige of ancient hospitality. Beyond the hall is what is termed the large court, which was one hundred feet long by sixty broad. It is deserving of notice for the curious fretwork of its walls, windows, &c. The western door of the hall led into the chapel, now dilapidated; but its site is traceable by some of the groins rising from grotesque heads that supported the roof. Most of the apartments of this splendid abode were of grand dimensions; the stone frames of the windows in many parts, particularly those of the south front, are distinguished with mouldings, friezes, and other decorations, which cannot even at present be considered as inelegant, and serve to give some idea of the mode in which the whole was fitted up in the interior. The immense expense and labour in erecting this enormous pile are no less evident, from the

the large vaults and subterraneous cells formed under the hall and courts, than from the majestic remains which tower above ground; and the strength of the walls is yet so great, that if the parts still standing were roofed in and fitted up, it might be again formed into a commodious habitation. The outworks thrown up for the defence of the castle, previous to the siege, are yet visible in the remains of bastions, horn-works, trenches, and ramparts. These appear to have been too extensive for the strength of the garrison, and probably tended to facilitate its fall. The approach to the castle was by a noble avenue of elms, most of which have been felled; but one remaining is distinguished for its venerable character and size; measuring near the ground twenty-eight feet five inches in circumference. Churchyard thus quaintly describes this grand fortress:—

"A famous castle fine,
That Raggland hight, stands moted almost round;
Made of freestone, upright as straight as line,
Whose workmanship, in beautie doth abound,
The curious knots, wrought all with edged toole,
The stately tower, that looks ore pond and poole;
The fountaine trim that runs both day and night,
Doth yield in shewe a rare and noble sight*."

Trelech, or *Three-stones*, situated on the turnpike road between Monmouth and Chepstow, is remarkable for three rude massive stones, placed perpendicular in the ground a small distance from each other, whence the village takes the appellation. The natives call them *Harold's-stones*, from a tradition that they were erected to commemorate a victory obtained over the Britons by Harold, at this place: but the rudeness of their form, and other circumstances, prove them of a date anterior to the period in which he flourished; although not a doubt can be entertained but the Britons sustained a defeat near this spot. They are probably British remains of high antiquity, set up as sepulchral memorials, or to designate a place of druidical worship; and the latter opinion is corroborated by other vestiges in the vicinity. The

* Worthines of Wales, p. 6.

The number three might be allusive to the mysterious triadism, or trinity of bardism; for the early natives of this island appear to have considered three as a sacred number, as seven was a mystical number among the Jews. The height of the largest stone above the surface of the ground is fifteen feet, and the circumference at the base fourteen. On the opposite side of the road is a low mound, with scattered fragments of stones, which appear as though once placed in a circular form; and half a mile from the village, on the open common, stands another stone, seven feet high, surrounded by a trench. From these vestiges it is not an improbable supposition, that Trelech was an ancient seat of druidical worship; and that these stones are the remains of one of those rude, but original temples, in which the ancient inhabitants of this island were accustomed to celebrate their pious orgies. In the garden of Mr. Rumsey is a tumulus, environed by a deep foss, about four hundred and fifty feet in circumference, with traces of extensive entrenchments. Some have considered this as a large barrow or burial place *; and others the keep of a castle, which once stood here, belonging to the earls of Clare. The latter was conveyed to the crown with the castle of Usk, through the families of de Burg, Mortimer, and York †. Near the village are several chalybeate springs, strongly impregnated with iron. They are thus noticed by the author of the Secret Memoirs of Monmouthshire. "Treleg Wells, which of late years have been much frequented, and have been found very medicinal, and of the nature of Tunbridge waters, flowing from an iron ore mineral; of which, and cinders left by the bloom-works, plenty is found in these parts." The three extraordinary things of this place are recorded on a small pedestal, which supports a square

* It was most probably a Saxon or Norman encampment, and afterwards occupied by the English, previous to the battle of Craig y Dorth, a conspicuous eminence in the vicinity, when Owen Glyndwr, in one of his predatory incursions, defeated the royal troops, and drove them to the gates of Monmouth.

† Dugdale's Baronage, article Clare.

square sun-dial, near the churchyard gate. On one side, the three stones are represented in relievo, with the measurements on each of eight, ten, and fourteen feet; above, "*Major saxis,*" and beneath, "*Hic fuit victor Haraldus.*" On another side is a representation of the tumulus; but the sculptor has delineated a vault; over it, "*Magna mole;*" and below, "*O! quot hic sepulti.*" The third represents the fountain; and above, "*Maxima fonte;* and below, "*Dom. Magd. probit, ostendit.*" This is considered a great curiosity, and of high antiquity; but "the shape of the pedestal and the form of the letters, prove it to be more modern than is generally supposed, and I suspect that the inscription in honour of Harold's victory over the Britons, was the work of some enthusiastic Saxon, in the fifteenth or sixteenth century*."

LANDOGO is a village, finely situated on the banks of the Wye, where that river makes charming meanders in its sinuous course, opposite Bigsweir. It is situated in a small plain, richly tufted with woods, and backed by a noble amphitheatre of lofty hills. At Brooksweir, the river exhibits the appearance of trade and activity, and is the point where the maritime and internal navigations form a junction. Numerous vessels, from thirty to ninety tons, chiefly from Bristol and the Somersetshire ports, frequently lie here, waiting for the tide, which seldom flows to any considerable height above this place.

The fine ruins of TINTERN ABBEY, belonging to the duke of Beaufort, are justly esteemed, with their appendages, the most beautiful and picturesque objects upon the river Wye. "Castles and abbies," says Mr. Gilpin, "have different situations, according to their respective uses. The castle meant for defence stands boldly on the hill; the abbey, intended for meditation, is hid in the sequestered vale:

"Ah,

* Coxe's Hist. Tour, p. 324. This enthusiastic Saxon, and who defrayed the whole expense, was the vicar of the place about the beginning of the seventeenth century.

" Ah, happy thou, if one sequestered rock
Bear on its brow the shivered fragment huge,
Of some old Norman fortress; happier far,
Ah! then most happy, if thy vale below
Wash with the crystal coolness of its rills
Some mouldering abbey's ivy-vested wall."

Such is the situation of Tintern Abbey*." But the writer is erroneous, in describing it as " occupying a great eminence, in the middle of a circular valley;" for it is seated in a flat plain, near the banks of the Wye, to which some parts of the building appear to have extended. The monastery was originally founded for monks of the Cistercian order, in the year 1131, by Walter de Clare, and dedicated to St. Mary. The endowments were much augmented by Gilbert de Strongbow, lord of Striguil and Chepstow, who was afterwards created earl of Pembroke. Among other benefactors, a list of whose names has been preserved in the works of William of Worcester, was Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk, who is stated to have been the founder of the abbey church. The same writer further says, that in October, 1268, the abbot and monks entered the choir of the new church, and celebrated the first mass at the high altar. At this period, it is highly probable only the choir was finished. It was not unusual at that, and at later times, to construct and consecrate the choir first, and then proceed to complete the remaining parts of the building. The architecture observable in the body of the church, especially in the tracery of the west window, is evidently of a style long subsequent to the dedication. At the Dissolution, the annual revenues were valued, according to Dugdale, at 132l. 1s. 4d.; but, according to Speed, at 256l. 11s. The site was granted, 28th of Henry the Eighth, to Henry, second earl of Worcester; in which family it is at present vested. A more pleasing retreat could not easily be found; every thing around breathes an air so tranquil and calm, so sequestered from the commerce and bustle of life, that it is conceivable a person of a contemplative turn, in monkish

* Observations on the river Wye, &c. p. 48.

monkish times, would have been allured by the beauty of the spot, to have wished to become an inhabitant of such a residence. The first appearance of these celebrated remains does not answer the expectations raised by the descriptions of the place. The greater part of the ruin is half concealed by a number of mean, shabby buildings, many of which have been constructed with the materials of the monastery. Some remains, near the river side, appear to have been the abbot's lodge and fratry; and others, which were the cells of the monks, have been converted into habitations for a number of poor miserable inhabitants, who never fail to annoy, by their pressing importunity for alms, the visitors of Tintern. But the interesting part of the ruin is the noble abbey church, the whole shell of which is intire, except being roofless. "It has been an elegant Gothic pile; but does not make that appearance, as a distant object, which we expected. Though the parts are beautiful, the whole is ill-shaped. No ruins of the tower are left, which might give form and contrast to the buttresses and walls. Instead of this, a number of gable ends hurt the eye with their regularity, and disgust it by the vulgarity of their shape. A mallet, judiciously used, (but who durst use it?) might be of service in fracturing some of them, particularly those in the cross isles; which are both disagreeable in themselves, and confound the perspective*." But whoever has taken a view of Tintern Abbey, as a *distant* object, from the opposite side of the river, will not be inclined to submit to this opinion. From a spot, about half a mile down the stream, the whole appears to great advantage, as though standing upon an eminence; the grand east window presenting itself like the portal of a magnificent edifice, embosomed in a dense wood, the sides being clustered with ivy, and the lower part of the building concealed by numerous shrubs. The river sweeping in front, forms a fine fore-ground; whilst the varied lines produced by the contour of the distant hills constitute a grand and solemn back-ground. This church was built in the form of a cathedral, consisting of a nave, north and south

* Gilpin's Observations on the river Wye, &c. p. 49.

south ailes, transept and choir, with a tower that formerly stood in the centre. The exterior of the building is fine, especially the facade of the western front. But the beauty of the interior must excite the admiration of the most stoical mind, and rivet the attention of the most tasteless observer. On the opening of the western door, the eye rapidly passes along the range of elegant columns which separated the nave and south aile, and, stretching under the sublime arches that once supported the tower, is fixed on the grand eastern window, at the termination of the choir. "From the length of the nave, the height of the walls, the aspiring form of the pointed arches, and the size of the east window, which closes the perspective, the first impressions are those of grandeur and sublimity. But as these emotions subside, and we descend from the contemplation of the whole to the examination of the parts, we are no less struck with the regularity of the plan, the lightness of the architecture, and the delicacy of the ornaments; we feel that elegance is its characteristic, and that the whole is a combination of the beautiful and sublime *." All the columns are yet standing, except those which divided the nave from the north aile; and the bases of the latter still mark their number and site. The arches and pillars of the transept are entire; and the four immense lofty arches, that supported the tower and spring high in air, still retain their original shape, though reduced to mere skeletons of stone. The forms of the principal windows are yet so far preserved as to be discriminated, particularly the frame of the western window, the tracery of which is peculiarly elegant †. The eastern window, occupying almost the whole breadth of the choir, is nearly entire, and divided



* Coxe's Hist. Tour, p. 352.

† Critics have censured the architect for not attending to proportion in this window, the height not being sufficient for the breadth; but the height was necessarily diminished to make way for the entrance, which certainly produces a fine effect, by opening at once to the choir; and the breadth harmonizes with the general character of the building.

into two compartments by a slender umbilical shaft, not less than fifty feet in height, diverging at top, of a singularly light appearance; and the tracery and mullions, which form the minor divisions, are exceedingly appropriate. The whole height of this window is sixty feet, and the breadth twenty-seven*. The great east, west, north, and south windows were of one uniform height from the ground to the point of the arch, and also the four arches which supported the tower. Though many of the columns have been demolished, and some of the windows and ornamental objects dilapidated, yet the character of all may be traced; for, as it has justly been observed, "in corresponding parts, always one remains to tell the story." To the decorations of art are now superadded the effects produced by time. Some of the windows are wholly obscured by large masses of ivy, others are canopied, or the sides partially covered, while the tendrils twine in the tracery of some, creep along the walls, encircle the columns, form natural wreathes round the capitals, or hang down in pendulous tufts from their summits. The numerous mosses and lichens also lend their assistance from the crevices of the stones, to furnish those contrasting tints which tend to give a powerful effect to the appearance of a ruin. The flooring of enamelled figured tiles has been removed, and the earth now constitutes the natural pavement, as the sky does its canopy. Since the late duke of Beaufort caused the ruin to be locked up, to secure it as an object for gratifying a laudable curiosity, the briars and weeds with which it had been overgrown, have been cleared away, and the whole area reduced to a level, and covered with turf, which is kept regularly mown. On this lie scattered in various directions, ornamented fragments of the once elegant groined roof, pieces of columns, friezes, sculptures, mutilated statues, and sepulchral stones, sacred to the memory of heroes † and religious persons, whose ashes have been deposited

* See a View of this Window, &c. accompanying the present volume.

† Several sepulchral effigies lie in a mutilated state in various parts of the building; and one representing a figure in a coat of mail, the left arm supporting

deposited within these walls. More picturesque it certainly would have been, if the area had been left strewed with all the dilapidated ruins. But the neatness certainly produces no unpleasing contrast, as it tends to exhibit more strikingly the proportions of the building, relieves the clustered columns, heightens the effect of the grey stone, and thus adds beauty as well as novelty to the interesting scene. And when it is considered that access is thus obtained to every part of the interior, which was previously inaccessible, save in a few places, the neatness may be excused, if not approved; and art, in such instances, may be allowed to bow at the shrine of utility.

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## CALDICOT HUNDRED,

situated to the south of that of Raglan, has the river Wye for its eastern boundary, and on the south-east is washed by the Severn Sea. This district, like the hundred of Wentloog, abounds with strikingly contrasted features. The high lands of the Devaudon, Chepstow Park, and the Pencamawr Mountain, boldly tower above the fertile marshes of Caldecot Level, and the flat meadows on the banks of the Wye. It comprises a fertile tract of country, abounding in rich arable, pasture, and orchard lands; and by its vicinity to the Severn Sea, and the facility of navigation afforded by the river Wye, it derives great advantages from the opposite coasts of Glocestershire and Somersetshire.

The HIGHER DIVISION contains the town of Chepstow, and

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supporting a shield, is supposed to be commemorative of Rich. Strongbow, earl of Pembroke, great nephew of Walter de Clare, the founder of the abbey. This figure, though now so defaced as no longer to enable the traveller to judge for himself, had, as Mr. Grose observed, *five* fingers and a thumb on his right hand.

the parishes of *St. Arvan's, Caerwent*, including the hamlet of *Crick, Caldicot, Itton, Lanvair, Discoed, Mathern, Newchurch* East, *Newchurch* West, *Penterry, Portskewett, Shire Newton.* In the LOWER DIVISION are the parishes of *Bishton, St. Bride's Netherwent*, including the hamlet of *Landavenny, Christ Church*, including the hamlets of *Caerleon**, and *Christ Church, Gold Cliff, Ifton, Langston, Lanbedr', Lanmartin*, including the hamlet of *Landevaud, Lanvachas, Lanvihangel, Lanwern Magor, Nash Penhow, Redwick, Rogiatt, Undy Willerick, Wilston.*

In this hundred was the famous forest of *Went-wood*, which, the author of the Secret Memoirs of Monmouthshire says, was encompassed with the six castles of "Dinham, Penhow, Pencoed, Lanvaches, Lanvaire, and Castrogy castles; the seats of, or belonging to, some of the principal tenants of Went-wood, and within the purlieus and limits thereof." These appear, however, to have been castellated mansions, to insure the conquests achieved by the earls of Clare in this part of the country. DINHAM, situated in the midst of the forest, only exhibits a few foundations of walls, called, by the people of the village, the old chapel. Of that at LANVACHES, no traces are visible. PENHOW CASTLE was the property and residence of the noble family of St. Maur, who came to England at the time of the Norman conquest. They have been better known by the name of Seymour: one branch terminated in the county of Monmouth at Penhow, and another, obtained large possessions in Somersetshire, and became the ancestors of the most noble and puissant ducal houses of Northumberland and Somerset. The remains of the castle are now very inconsiderable; a portion has been converted into a farm-house, and the remainder consists of a small square embattled tower, with a few dilapidated walls. The sequestered spot, however, in which these stand, and the history with which the place is connected, give it peculiar interest.

PENCOED

* Caerleon is here improperly placed. It has already been described in its proper division, in the hundred of Usk.

PENCOED has been considered, but without the smallest reason, the most ancient of the six Agrarian fortresses, mentioned by the author of the Secret Memoirs. At least the present remains bear no testimony on which to ground such an opinion. They consist of a gateway, flanked by two pentagonal turrets, which are evidently parts of a building that probably extended round the area of the court, and from which the present mansion arose. The architectural remains of this fortress, which indicate the time of Henry the Seventh, are of large dimensions, and though these are much dilapidated, and disfigured by being converted to the uses of a farm, exhibit in a handsome vestibule, of the pointed style, the size of the apartments, and the richness of the cielings, traces of former magnificence. This fortress probably stands upon the site of a castle, erected at an earlier date; for Sir Richard Moore in the year 1270, obtained, by charter, the privilege of house-bote and hey-bote for his mansion at Pencoed: from him it descended to a younger branch of the Morgan family of Tredegar *.

LANVAIR CASTLE is situated about a mile and a half from Pencoed: the site has a small farm-house upon it, and the principal court is transformed into a kitchen garden. The present remains comprise three round towers, in a very dilapidated state, and the fragments of straight walls, from seven to ten feet thick, with several circular-headed windows. Foundations of other buildings may be traced to a very considerable extent. This fortress lays claim, to great antiquity; for in the year 1270 it was in possession of Sir Robert Pagan, knt., who was one of the jury summoned to the court of Striguil at Chepstow, to determine in whom the privilege of house-bote and hey-bote in the forest, or chase of Went-wood was vested; when it was

 decided,

* Leland says, "Morgan, the knight of Low Wentlande, dwelling at Pencoite, a fair manor place, a mile from Byst, alias Bishopstone, and two miles from the Severn sei. He is of a younger brother's house."

decided, in his favour, as the proprietor of Llanvair Castle. As a ruin, the present remain is a very picturesque object. It stands on an eminence, and is flanked by two conspicuous hills of considerable height, the one called *Mynyd Llwyd*, and the other *Allt yr Arfaid*.

Skigil, or Striguil Castle, commonly called *Castle-Troggy*, according to general opinion, upon the authority of Leland and Camden, was erected prior to the Conquest, and gave the title of Striguil to the celebrated family of Clare, and the name of Strigulia to the adjacent district. From its having been in the possession of the Clare family at the same time with that of Chepstow, it has by many modern writers been confounded with the latter fortress. And as a proof with what facility error reverts, and how difficult it is for historic truth to maintain its ground, even when supported by written documents, it may be proper to remark, that this representation appears to have been made previous to the time in which Leland wrote. Speaking of Chepstow, he observes, "Sum say that the old name of this towne is *Strigulia*. Sum think that Strigulia should be sum other place, because that the lord Herebert writeth himself lord of Chepstow and Strigul, as of ii diverse places. There appere a v or vi Englisch myles from Chepstow, yn a great wood syde under a hill, a very notable ruines of a castel, cawled Trogy, whereby runneth a lytle broke of the same name. The name of this castle sumwhat cummeth to the name of Strigulia; but it standeth, as they say, ther, in *Mydd Venceland*"*. The dilapidated remains exhibit some traces of the pointed style, and clearly prove its erection posterior to the castle of Chepstow, which is as old as the Conquest. They stand at the base of a hill that forms the northern termination of the elevated ridge called Pencamawr, in a marshy plain on the western verge of Went-wood Forest. This building was probably only a castellated mansion, erected by Richard Strongbow, earl of Pembroke, Chepstow, and Striguil, who was a conqueror of

* Itinerary, Vol. V. f. 5.

of Ireland. From him it came, by marriage, to the family of Bigod, earls of Norfolk; and is at present the property of the duke of Beaufort. A few walls, with windows and doorways, and a small octagonal tower, constitute all that remains above ground; but traces of other towers are visible. The whole appears to have been surrounded by a moat, which was supplied with water by two small streams, that, here uniting, form the rivulet called Troggy. About two miles below, at Caerwent, this stream assumes the name of the Nedern.

WENT-WOOD FOREST, or rather *Chace*, was formerly of greater extent than at present, and comprehended a wild and dreary tract of country. It has been at various times curtailed, and now comprises nearly 2170 acres of land, thickly covered with timber trees and underwood. The lodge and a few cottages are the only habitations within this district. It is the property of the duke of Beaufort, and was long a boon of contention between his grace's predecessors and some gentlemen of the county. Of which litigation, Rogers, in his Secret Memoirs, gives a circumstantial account, together with numerous particulars respecting the general history of the county.

LLANWERN HOUSE, in the parish of *Llanwern*, is the handsome residence of *Sir Robert Salusbury*, bart., member of parliament for the town of Brecon. The estate was formerly in possession of the Vanne family, whose original name, according to a Welsh bard* of the sixteenth century, was *de Anne*. He also states, that they came to this part of the island from Cornwall, Robert de Anne being the first who settled in Glamorganshire, in the reign of Edward the Fourth. The estate became the property of Sir Robert Salusbury, by his marriage with Catherine, daughter of the late proprietor, Charles Vanne, esq. whose father erected the present mansion. It is a large handsome modern edifice, and, standing on an eminence, forms a conspicuous



* Griffith Hiraethog.

object, both from the great Newport road, and from the adjacent marshes.

CALDECOT LEVEL, commonly called the Moors, the sea-walls of which have been previously described, was once entirely overflowed by the sea, or at least was subject to continual inundations from that unruly element. But the greater part having been drained, is brought into a state of high cultivation, and now forms a rich grazing district, which is pleasingly studded with churches, farm-houses, and cottages. These being all whitewashed, have a conspicuous effect. For this improvement the land-owners, as those of almost every drained marshy tract throughout the kingdom have been, are indebted to the ingenuity and spirit of persons who, too commonly, and in many instances unjustly, were denominated lazy monks. The work was performed by some long-forgotten inhabitants of a religious house in the vicinity named.

GOLD-CLIFF PRIORY, to which the principal drain leads, and is still called Monk's-ditch. This monastery was founded for black monks of the Benedictine order, by Robert de Chandos, in the year 1113, and made a cell to the abbey of Bec in Normandy. On the suppression of alien priories, Henry Beauchamp obtained a grant of the priory, with permission to annex it as a cell to the abbey of Tewkesbury, in Glocestershire. At the Dissolution it was among the possessions of Eton College; and the annual revenues, from the valuation made at that period, amounted to 144l. 8s. 1d*. The site of this once flourishing monastery is now occupied as a farm-house, built with part of the materials, and a barn upon the verge of the cliff, which, from an antiquated doorway, appears to have formed part of the original structure. Although these remains now furnish little to gratify curiosity, yet the *Cliff* on which they stand is deserving notice, in a geological point of view. It is a peninsulated rocky hill, which rises almost abruptly from the sea, to the height of about sixty feet,

* Tanner's Notitia Monastica.

feet, and is remarkable, as being the only natural barrier to the waves for an extent of more than sixteen miles; inundations being prevented in the rest of the line by artificial mounds. The rock consists of various stratifications of lime-stone, lying in an horizontal position, intersected with silicious crystalizations, and beneath is an immense bed of mica, that, when the sun shines upon it, produces the effect mentioned by Giraldus; and which the people in the vicinity still conceive are indications of a gold-mine. From this circumstance the promontory received its present appellation.

CAERWENT, or *Caergwent*, now an inconsiderable village, was a Roman station, the *Venta Silurum* of Antoninus's Itinerary, and garrisoned by part of the second Augustine legion. It has been supposed to be the site of the capital city of the Britons in Siluria. The village occupies the upper portion of a gradual acclivity from the moors, and is still partially environed with the original Roman walls. From these, and the foundations of others, the form and dimensions may still be traced. That it was a place of considerable importance, may be collected from its giving the denomination of Siluria to the territory*. The form is a parallelogram, similar to that of Caerleon, having the north side curvilinear, and the angles which are nearly in the cardinal points of the compass, rounded off. The walls inclose an area of about a mile in circumference, the longest sides being 505 yards, and the shortest 390. The turnpike road to Newport, which here is upon part of the Julia strata or Roman road, passes through the centre between two openings, where formerly stood the eastern and western gates. All the sides, except the southern, were defended by a deep foss. The exact height of the walls cannot be ascertained, but they appear to have been from twelve to twenty-four feet. The thickness at the bottom is twelve, and at the top not less than nine feet. The facings which are visible, consist of oblong pieces of lime-stone, occasionally intermixed with sand-stones, and the interior is composed of pebbles and

* Camden's Britannia, Gough's edit. Vol. II. p. 478.

and rough stones, imbedded in strong cement. The southern wall, the most perfect, is nearly entire, and strengthened by three pentagonal stone bastions, each of which displays five faces of an octangular tower. The western wall is also nearly twenty feet high, and in tolerable preservation. In the opinion of some writers, the angular bastions have been considered to be decisively in favour of a Norman origin; and the Saxon claim has been equally and successfully preferred by others, from the semicircular bastions visible upon a fragment of the wall. When it is recollected that this place has been visited by a number of scientific observers, and that accounts are always subject to the lash of criticism, it almost staggers reason to account for the egregious diversity of opinion. "One might almost imagine there must be some fatality to err, in speaking of the ruinous old walls of Caerwent, when we consider the various mis-statements they have given rise to. It is not a little singular, that Llwyd should have asserted there were no remains of these walls, except on the south side; and Strange informs us, that 'the most considerable remnant he had seen in his tour is that on the west*." Others think that the walls were built under the lower Roman empire, because it has been, but without authority, alledged, that the Romans, in the proudest state of their military career, did not use turrets, bastions, or flankers, similar to what are seen at Caerwent. But might not these have been additions since the erection of the original walls? for it has been seen in the course of this work what multifarious alterations have been made at different periods to various fortresses and places of defence. Where the facings of the walls in question have been removed, the peculiarity of Roman masonry is sufficiently obvious: the zig-zag or herring-back form is employed; and, were there no other vestiges

* Donovan's Descriptive Excursions through South Wales, &c.—It is but justice to this intelligent tourist and excellent naturalist, to remark, that his descriptions and accounts are generally very acute, discriminating and accurate, and therefore entitled to much credit. B.

tiges to form a clue to inquiry, this mode of building would almost lead to decision of opinion. But numerous remains of that people have been discovered here, and deposited in the cabinets of antiquaries. These consist of coins, fragments of columns, statues, sepulchral stones, and tessellated pavements. Mr. Strange has given an account, accompanied by an engraving* of a curious *pavement* that he discovered within the walls; but this has been destroyed. Another, which was at one time inclosed with walls, from the roof falling in, and cattle being suffered to enter, has nearly shared the same fate. The description given of it by Mr. Wyndham will serve to explain, to the reader, the peculiarities of this piece of Mosaic work. "The pavement is in length twenty-one feet six inches, and in breadth eighteen feet. A border, edged with the Greek scroll and fret, surrounds the whole; but on the north side, this border, being upwards of three feet, is much broader than on the other side. This was designed in order to reduce the circles within a square. These circles are about three feet in diameter, and are encircled with a variety of elegant ornaments, and separated from each other by regular and equal distances. I think there are thirteen of these circles. The pieces of which the pavement is composed are nearly square, the breadth of them being about the size of a narrow die. These are of various colours, blue, white, yellow, and red; the first and second are of stone, and the yellow and red are of terra cotta. By a judicious mixture of these colours, the whole pattern is as strongly described as it would have been in oil colours. The original level is perfectly preserved, and the whole composition is so elegant and well executed, that I think it has not been surpassed by any mosaic pavement that has been discovered on this, or even on the other side of the Alps. In my opinion it is equal to those beautiful pavements which are preserved in the palace of the king of Naples at Portice. I am strongly inclined to think that it is of the same age with Agricola†." Of another

* Archaeologia, vol. 5. p. 58. † Archaeologia.

another *pavement*, of a similar description, part of the broad external border, and a small portion of the central square only remain. Near the vicarage, a short time since, another tessellated floor was discovered, which some suppose formed originally a portion of a majestic edifice of Roman workmanship; because the capital and part of a column were found near it. Of these pavements various opinions have been formed as to their designation. Some have considered them as belonging to temples, and others of Roman villas occupied by the military chieftains, or municipal officers. And it has been remarked, that the Roman baggage generally contained a quantity of tessellæ to decorate the pretoria of camps. But as many fragments of pavements have been discovered here, besides those already mentioned *, it is not improbable, that this was a mode of ornamenting the floors of mansions belonging to superior people among the Romanized Britons. In ploughing up the grounds, and digging for the purpose of building, other vestiges of the Romans, particularly coins, have frequently been found here. But exclusive of such antiquities and the remaining walls, Caerwent exhibits scarcely a tittle of its ancient magnificence and importance. The present village may be described in a few words: the area is laid out in fields, orchards, and gardens, amidst which stand the church, parsonage-house, and a few small farm-houses, and detached cottages. This appears the state in which it has been for more than two preceding centuries, according to the description given of it by Leland. "It was sum time a fair and large cyte. The places where the iiii gates was yet appere, and the most part of the wal yet standeth, but al to minischyd and torne. Within and abowte the wawlle be a xvi or xvii smaul houses for hosbandmen of a new making, and a paroche church of *St. Stephyn* †."

In the midst of the marshy flat of Caldecot Level, at a small distance from the village, stand the magnificent ruins of CALDECOT

* Three were found in a large garden in the year 1689.

† Itinerary, vol. v. f. 5.

COT CASTLE, called by Camden a shell belonging to the constables of England*. The history of this fortress is obscure; but from the varied and ponderous style of the building, it was probably erected at two distinct, but early periods. The most ancient part, containing the circular bastions, &c. might have been begun by Harold, when he was attempting the conquest of Gwent, but the greater part was added by the early Normans, when they proceeded to complete it. This fortress, which must have been of considerable importance in the subjugation of the south-eastern parts of Monmouthshire, was early in the possession of the great family of Bohun; for, according to Dugdale, Humphrey, earl of Hereford, the fifth of that line, did homage in 1221 for the livery of this castle, among other possessions of his late father. Coming into possession of the crown, it was annexed to the duchy of Lancaster; of which, under lease, it is at present held by Capel Hanbury Leigh, esq. From a statement given by the jury at a court of inquisition held in the year 1613, it then appeared to have been in a very dilapidated state. Situated in a flat, the ruins do not produce that picturesque effect which others of a similar kind do, that have the advantage of more elevated sites. The ground environing the castle, was formerly overflowed, so that the edifice stood upon an island, and it is still surrounded by a moat: in a distant view the shape seems quadrangular; but on a nearer approach it exhibits a polygonal form. The side fronting the village is flanked by a large round tower, and at the northern angle is a circular tower on a mound of earth, evidently the keep, encircled by a ditch. By means of galleries this was connected with the rest of the buildings. Another circular dilapidated tower is at the southern angle. The

* "Camden erroneously asserts, that the castle of Caldecot belonged to the constableship of England; but it appears to have been the private property of the great Bohun family, earls of Hereford, and hereditary constables of England, from which circumstance this mistake of Camden is derived." Coxe's Hist. Tour, p. 19, Note.

The principal entrance to the south-west consists of a grand arched gateway, flanked with massive turrets, mantled with ivy, and was formerly guarded by portcullises. The greatest length of the inner area is one hundred yards: the breadth differs from seventy-five yards to forty, towards the east. The thickness of the walls varies from five to nine feet, which are formed of coarse grit-stone. Within side are the remains of several apartments, particularly the baronial hall, and opposite to the grand gateway is another entrance through a fine hexagonal tower, with a machicolated roof. A high ridge of land, perhaps formerly fortified, connects the castle with the village.

PORTSCEWIT, *Portiscwit*, is a village that probably derives its name from Portiscoed, or the part under the wood, the Romans having laid up the gallies in the adjacent pill or creek. Here is an ancient Roman encampment, called *Sudbrooke*, or *Southbrook*, upon the verge of a cliff, abruptly rising from the Severn Sea. The form is nearly that of a stretched-out bow, approaching to a semicircle, having the longest diameter towards the water. It was apparently, when the marshes were subject to be inundated by the tide, situated upon a peninsula. On the land side it was defended by a triple rampart of earth and two ditches. The inner rampart, which is formed of earth, is nearly twenty feet in height, and has a number of large stones lying strewed about, probably the remains of works which had been erected to strengthen it. The general opinion is, that this was a work of the Romans, and that it was formed to defend their vessels lying in the pill beneath; by which a communication was kept up between their naval station on the opposite shore, near King Road. A small chapel, in ruins, stands near the sea, upon the outside of the great rampart, and is supposed to have belonged to an ancient mansion which once stood near; for in the twelfth century, John Southbrooke is said to have enjoyed hey-bote and house-bote, by a grant from the time of the Conquest, for his house at this place.

In

In Powell's History of Wales, it is observed, that Harold, after seizing part of South Wales from prince Gryffyth, built, for his own residence, a magnificent house, or castle, at Portascyth, in Monmouthshire.

ST. PIERRE. In this village is a fine old castellated mansion, belonging to ——— Lewis, esq. now altered and fitted up in the modern style. The family of Lewis, who take the additional name of St. Pierre from the place, are descendants of Cadivor the Great, and have been resident here for many generations. Two sepulchral stones, which have attracted the notice of antiquaries, stand in the church porch; one, commemorative of Urien St. Pierre, is a flat stone, having carved upon it a plain cross and sword, with this inscription:

" Ici git le cors v de sene pere,
Preez par li en bon manere;
Qe Jesu pur sa pasiun,
De phecez li done pardun.
Amen. R. P."

*i. e.* " Here lies the body of Urien St. Pierre; pray devoutly for his soul, that Jesus, for his passion's sake, would give him pardon for his sins *."

In this parish is the ferry across the Severn into Gloucestershire, generally denominated the New *Passage*, the distance across which, at full tide, being about three miles and a quarter.

## CHEPSTOW.

This town is seated partly in a deep hollow, and partly on the side of a hill which slopes to the river Wye. Leland says, " A great likelihood ys, that wen Cairgent (Caerwent) began to decay, then began Chepstow to florisch; it standeth far better as upon Wye.

* Coxe, p. 5.

Wy, there ebbyng and flowing by the rage cumming out of Severn. So that to Chepstowe may come greate shippes†." Whatever may have been advanced by some writers, respecting the Roman origin of this town, no vestiges have been discovered in support of the opinion. Numerous ancient encampments are traceable in the vicinity, which were perhaps originally occupied by the Romans, and subsequently altered by others in time of war. The name implies a Saxon origin; and Harold must have been aware of the importance of such a station on the Wye. In Domesday book it is denominated "*Castellum de Estrighoiel*," which proves that a fortress then existed at this place; and the names of Strigoiel, Sriguil, &c. were synonymous with that of Chepstow. The present *Castle* must be referred to the time of the Conquest, having in part been erected by William Fitz-Osborn, earl of Hereford, who, for his distinguished services at the battle of Hastings, had ample possessions bestowed, and the honour of justiciary for the northern part of the kingdom, conferred upon him. He was also made joint marshal of England with Roger de Montgomery. It subsequently formed part of the possessions of the earls of Clare; from whom it descended to the Plantagenets, the Herberts, and the Somersets: in the latter family it is at present vested. Little is said of its military history in the middle ages; but during the differences between king Charles and his parliament, it was several times taken and retaken; and, as commanding a great influence over these parts, the possession of it was considered of very material importance to either party†. The remains of this immense pile, many parts of which as it were overhang the water, the river flowing

* Itinerary, Vol. V. f. 5.

† When last taken by the parliamentarian forces, the captain who was dispatched with an account of the event, was rewarded with fifty pounds; and colonel Ewer, who commanded the siege, received a letter of thanks for himself and men, on account of the essential services they had rendered the state, in the recapture of the place. Rushworth's Collections.

flowing close to its walls, and under some of the arches, exhibit in its shell principally a Norman character, with many additions of subsequent eras. It is so constructed on the river, that in many places it appears to form part of the perpendicular cliff on which it stands; masses of ivy similar to those which hide the fragments of walls and towers from the view, creep down and conceal portions of the native rocks. The castle towards the land side was defended by an immense moat, and the walls flanked with lofty bastion towers. The grand entrance on the east displays a fine specimen of the early Norman style, and consists of a circular arch between two round towers, leading into the first court, in which were the grand hall, kitchen, and other apartments: some of the latter are yet inhabited by a family who have the lease of the premises. A gate opens by the side of a round tower into the second court, which is now used as a garden; another into a third area, in which is situated the roofless chapel. This has pointed arched windows; but the walls being lightened by tiers of semicircular arches, has led some persons to suppose it of higher antiquity than it really is. At the south-western extremity of the third court, also converted into a garden, a winding staircase leads to the battlements, and formerly a communication went from this to the fourth court, which is now entered by a sally-port. But the part of this building which has excited of late years the most lively interest, is a round tower at the south-east angle of the first court, in which *Henry Marten,* one of the regicides of Charles the First was confined for the space of thirty years; and this having been represented as a dark, miserable dungeon, inadmissible to the cheering rays of day, and attended with all the horrors of solitary confinement, without the prisoner having much opportunity of enjoying fresh air or room for exercise; it may be proper to oppose any further propagation of such an error, by giving some description of it. " The first story of this tower contains an apartment, which was occupied by himself and his wife; above were lodgings for his domestics. The chamber in which he usually lived is not less than thirty-six feet in length,

twenty-three in breadth, and of proportionate height: it was provided with two fire places, and three windows, two of which appear to be the original apertures, and the third was probably enlarged for his convenience*." That he was permitted to live after the crime of which he had been found guilty, was an act of peculiar clemency, and what could not have been expected after the son of the murdered monarch had ascended the throne; still the thought of solitary confinement for so many years, however its severity may have been mitigated, cannot but affect the feelings of humanity; while it is equally a cause of regret to recollect that it produced no contrition in the mind of Marten, who breathed a determined hatred to royalty to the day of his death.

A PRIORY, for monks of the Benedictine order, was founded at Chepstow soon after the Conquest, and was known in the Anglo-Norman era, under the name of Strigule or Striguil monastery. It was made a cell to the abbey of Cormeille, in Normandy. Hence, as there is no mention made of Chepstow, but only of Striguil being granted to Cormeille, Tanner justly considers it to be the same religious house†. The grant of it by Edward the Fourth to the college called God's House, in Cambridge, does not appear to have been confirmed; because a priory, containing three monks, was found existing here at the Dissolution,

* Coxe's Hist. Tour, p. 373. In this interesting topographical work are two views of "Harry Marten's tower;" also a portrait of this inveterate republican, and a particular account of his political life and character.

"For thirty years, secluded from mankind,
Here Marten lingered. Often have these walls
Echoed his footsteps, as with even tread
He paced around his prison. Not to him
Did nature's fair varieties exist.
He never saw the sun's delightful beams,
Save when through yon high bars he pour'd a sad,
A broken splendour. ——————."

*Southey's Poems.*

† Notitia Monastica.

Dissolution, and the revenues then valued at 32l. per annum. Most of the remains are the present *parish church*, which formed part of the chapel belonging to the priory; and, though in a mutilated state, forms a curious piece of early ecclesiastical architecture. The original tower, which stood at the eastern end of the present building, fell down many years ago. On the outside, at the angles, are several ancient clustered columns, which appear to have supported one of the arches of the tower; and beyond this, as the original structure was built after the manner of a cathedral, extended the choir, now no more. The entrance was by a handsome semicircular arched doorway, ornamented with crenellated, billeted, and other mouldings, resting on five short receding columns on a side, but without pedestals, having simple uniform capitals. A similar decorated arch of smaller dimensions, springing from two collateral columns, is on each side of the doorway. This exceedingly curious specimen is half obscured and disfigured by an external porch, in the pointed style*. The nave of the original church that forms the body of the present, appears to have been considerably larger. It is separated from the ailes by ranges of circular arches, resting on massive piers. These give the interior a venerable appearance; but much of the effect is lost by the want of correspondence in the pointed windows. The features of the building point out its antiquity, which is corroborated by records as early as the reign of Stephen; and in 1168, the church of Striguil was confirmed, by a bull of pope Alexander the Third, to the abbey of Cormeille. Another ancient deed asserts the right the prior of Strigul had to house-bote and hey-bote in Went-wood, from the time of the Conquest. On the south side of the chancel, under a canopied monument, supported by eight Corinthian pillars, are placed the whole length figure of *Henry, second earl of Worcester*†, who died in 1549, aged fifty-three years.



* A plate, representing a geometrical view of this entrance, is given in Coxe's Tour, p. 364.

† An engraved view of this monument is given in Sandford's Genealogical History of Great Britain.

Chepstow is about three miles from the passage over the river Severn at Aust Ferry; five from the new passage at Black Rock; fifteen from Monmouth; sixteen from Bristol; and one hundred and thirty-five from London.

The tide of the Wye flows with great rapidity up to the town. It frequently rises at the bridge to the height of fifty-six feet; and in January, 1768, it rose about seventy feet: a phenomenon occasioned by the projection of the rocks at Beachley and Aust, which turns the tide with great violence into this river. "The channel in this place," observes Mr. Coxe, "being narrow in proportion to the Severn, and confined between perpendicular cliffs, the great rise and fall of the river are peculiarly manifest; hence it has been echoed from one publication to another, that the tide at Chepstow is higher than in any other place in the world, at an average fifty or sixty feet, and on some extraordinary occasions not less than seventy.

"To ascertain the truth of this assertion, I plumbed the river, with the assistance of Mr. Jennings and an experienced boatman, at high tide, on the fourth of September. The perpendicular height, from the bottom of the channel to the surface of the water, was forty-seven feet three inches; from the water to the floor of the bridge, six feet; and two feet ten inches to a notch in the rail, which marks the greatest rise. Hence the highest tide, during the memory of the present generation, does not exceed fifty-six feet one inch; which, though very considerable, is by no means greater than that of many other places on the globe. Perhaps the rapidity of the flood up the Severn and Wye, is more remarkable than its height; it is high-water at Chepstow, as Mr. Jennings informs me, before it is at the Pill up the river Avon, which is only two miles and a half from Kingroad (towards Bristol); whereas Chepstow is eleven miles*."

The floor of the *Bridge*, constructed similar to that of Caerleon, is level, and was formerly supported by wooden piers about the height of forty feet, which the counties of Glocester and Monmouth jointly contributed to keep in repair. They remain in their

* Coxe's Hist. Tour, p. 359.

their original state on the Glocestershire side; but stone piers have been substituted on the opposite shore. Part of it belongs to the county of Glocester, and part to Monmouthshire. The central pier, of massive stone, separates the two counties. The carpentry of the wooden piers, is ingeniously contrived to present only a very narrow surface to the current of the river, and is supposed to have been formed in imitation of the Roman bridges*.

Chepstow contains no manufactories; but supplies Herefordshire and the eastern part of Monmouthshire with the necessary imports by the Wye, and exports the native productions, which are principally timber, grain for the Bristol market, coal, grind and mill-stones, iron, oak-bark, and cider. A considerable foreign trade is carried on during the time of peace; and some vessels are built here.

In the neighbourhood of Chepstow are the remains of several religious houses. A pleasant eminence, to the west of the town, was occupied by *St. Kynemark's Priory*, the walls of which, still visible, enclose the garden and yard of a farm-house, called St. Kynemark's Farm. The foundation of *St. Lawrance's Chapel* may also be traced. The traveller, in passing to this spot by the Shire Newton road, and along the fields, commands a singular and beautiful prospect of Chepstow and its environs. The remains of several other chapels, and monastic buildings, are to be seen in different parts of the town.

In the garden belonging to a house in Bridge-street, is an *ebbing* and *flowing Well*, remarkable for good water, which at high tide becomes perfectly dry; a little before which it begins to subside, and soon after the ebb it returns: neither wet nor dry weather affect it, but its increase and decrease regularly correspond with the tide. The well, which is thirty-two feet deep, has frequently fourteen feet of water.

PIERCEFIELD,

* Mr. Coxe has given plates of a general view of the Bridge, also geometrical representations of the Wooden Piers.

PIERCEFIELD, about two miles to the west of Chepstow, a seat of much celebrity, and a just theme for descriptive encomium with tourists and topographers, is now the property of Nathaniel Wells, esq. who purchased it of Colonel Wood; about six years ago. The grounds are extensive, and embrace much diversified scenery of wood, lawn, rock, and river. Stretching along the irriguous banks of the Wye, from the castle at Chepstow to a lofty perpendicular rock, called the Wynd-cliff, is a walk of about three miles in length; in the course of which a variety of grand, diversified, and extensive prospects are obtained. The principal of these are called, 1. The *Lover's Leap;* 2. *Paradise Seat*, on the edge of a precipice; 3. *The Giant's Cave;* 4. *The Half-Way Seat;* 5. *The Double View;* 6. *Prospect above Pierce-Wood;* 7. *The Grotto;* 8. *The Platform;* and, 9. *The Alcove.* Though, on the present occasion, it will be impracticable to particularize and define each of these spots and views separately; yet some idea of the whole will be furnished, by the following extract from Mr. Coxe's Historical Tour.

" On entering the grounds at the extremity of the village of St. Arvans, and at the bottom of Wynd-cliff, the walk leads through plantations, commanding on the right a distant view of the Severn and the surrounding country: it penetrates into a thick forest, and conducts to the Lover's Leap; where the Wynd-cliff is seen towering above the river in all its height and beauty, and below yawns a deep and woody abyss. It waves almost imperceptibly in a grand outline, on the brow of the majestic amphitheatre of cliffs, impending on the Wye, opposite to the peninsula of Lancaut, then crosses the park, runs through groves and thickets, and again joins the Wye at that reach of the river, which stretches from Lancaut to the castle of Chepstow. From the Lover's Leap, the walk is carried through a thick mantle of forests, with occasional openings, which seem not the result of art or design, but the effect of chance or nature. This bowery walk is consonant to the genius of Piercefield: the screen of wood prevents the uniformity of a bird's-eye view, and the imperceptible bend of

of the amphitheatre, conveys the spectator from one part of this fairy region to another, without discovering the gradations. Hence the Wye is sometimes concealed, or half obscured by overhanging foliage; at others, wholly expanding to view, is seen sweeping beneath in a broad and circuitous channel: hence, at one place the Severn spreads in the midst of a boundless expanse of country, and on the opposite side of the Wye: at another, both rivers appear on the same side, and the Severn seems supported on the level summit of the cliffs which form the banks of the Wye. Hence the same objects present themselves in different aspects and with varied accompaniments: hence the magic transitions from the impervious gloom of the forest to open groves; from meadows and lawns to rocks and precipices; and from the mild beauties of English landscape, to the wildness of Alpine scenery.

"The summit of Wynd-cliff, which towers above the northern extremity of the grounds, commands, in one point of view, the whole extent of this interesting scenery. As I stood on the brow of this precipice, I looked down upon the fertile peninsula of Lancaut, surrounded with rocks and forests, contemplated the hanging woods, rich lawns, and romantic cliffs of Piercefield, the castle and town of Chepstow, and traced the Wye, sweeping in the true outline of beauty, from the Banagor crags to its junction with the Severn, which spreads into an æstuary, and is lost in the distant ocean. A boundless extent of country is seen in every direction, from this commanding eminence, comprehending not less than nine counties: in the midst of this expanse, I principally directed my attention to the subject of my Tour, which now drew to a conclusion; I traced with pleasing satisfaction, not unmixed with regret, the luxuriant vallies and romantic hills of this interesting county, which I had traversed in various directions; but I dwelt with peculiar admiration on the majestic rampart which forms its boundary to the west, and extends in one grand and broken outline, from the banks of the Severn to the Black Mountain*,"

"——— where

* Coxe's Hist. Tour. p. 402.

" ——— where the broken landscape, by degrees
Ascending, roughens into rigid hills;
O'er which the Cambrian Mountains, like far clouds
That skirt the blue horizon, dusky rise."

*Thomson's Spring.*

The house erected on this estate is a magnificent pile of building of free-stone, and stands nearly in the centre of the park. It consists of a centre and two wings: the former having three stories, and the latter one. Piercefield was long the property of the Waters' family, till the year 1736, when it was sold to Colonel Morris, father of Valentine Morris, esq. who afterwards possessed it; and to whose taste and liberality it is indebted for its chief artificial beauties and its long-established celebrity. In 1784, it was bought by George Smith, esq.; who again sold it, in 1794, to Colonel Wood, formerly chief engineer at Bengal. The latter gentleman made many additions and improvements to the house and grounds: among which may be specified the two wings, which he added to the former.

END OF MONMOUTHSHIRE.

# A LIST

OF THE

*Principal Books, Maps, and Views, that have been Published in Illustration of the Topography and Antiquities of*

THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH.

WHEN Mr. Gough published the second Edition of "*British Topography*, 1780" he said, "All that has been written about this county, is a very superficial piece, entitled, '*Memoirs of Monmouthshire*,' a small volume in 12mo, 1708, by N. Rogers." Since Mr. Gough published, the Topography and Antiquities of Monmouthshire have been amply illustrated; as will appear from the following list of Books, &c. which are either wholly appropriated to it, or contain Topographical accounts of some places within this district.

"*The History of Monmouthshire*; by David Williams, illustrated and ornamented by Views of its principal Landscapes, Ruins, and Residences, by John Gardnor, Vicar of Battersea: Engraved by Mr. Gardnor and Mr. Hill." 4to. 1796.—Map by Cary, 1787. 36 Prints, Aqua: 360 pages, and 199 in Appendix.

The latter contains several Essays and Letters by different Gentlemen, relating to various subjects connected with the county.

"*An Historical Tour in Monmouthshire*; illustrated with Views, by Sir R. C. Hoare, Bart. A new Map of the County, and other Engravings. By William Coxe, A. M.—F. R. S.—F. A. S. 1801." 4to. pp. 472.

"*A Tour throughout South Wales and* MONMOUTHSHIRE. Comprehending a General Survey of the Picturesque Scenery, Remains of Antiquity, Historical Events, Peculiar Manners, and Commercial Situations of that interesting portion of the British Empire. By. J. T. Barber, F. S. A. 1803." pp. 372.

"*Descriptive Excursions through South Wales and* MONMOUTHSHIRE, in the year 1804, and the four preceding summers. By E. Donovan, F. L. S. Author of the *British Zoology*, in Twenty Volumes, &c. —Embellished with thirty-one Plates of Views, Antiquities, &c. 1805." Two Volumes 8vo. pp. 431. 405.

"*A Picture of Monmouthshire*, or an Abridgment of Mr. Coxe's Historical Tour in Monmouthshire. By a Lady." 12mo. 1802. pp. 179.

In 1775 was published, "*A Gentleman's Tour through Monmouthshire and Wales*, in the months of June and July 1774." 12mo. with a print

of a bass relief at Caerleon, etched by J. T. 1774. The 2d. Edition has the Author's name, Henry Penruddock Wyndham Esq. M. P. for Wiltshire, and Author of a "*Tour in Monmouthshire* and Wales."

The *Roman Antiquities* at *Caerleon* and *Caerwent*, and other parts of this county, are illustrated by John Strange, Esq. in Archaeologia, Vol. v. p. 34. with a print of the monument of Urian de St. Pere, temp. Hen. III.——In the Gentleman's Magazine, Feb. 1765. p. 72. is an account and print of this monument by Mr. Row.

In 1646, was published "*The gallant Siege of the Parliament Forces before Ragland Castle*, with the desperate exploits of the besieged," &c. 4to. And in 1708, "*Lamentable newes out of Monmouthshire in Wales:* Contayning the wonderfull and most fearfull accidents of the great overflowing of waters in the saide countye, &c." 4to.

## PRINTS and MAPS.

Messrs. Bucks' engraved Views of "*Lantoni* Priory, N. W"; and of the following castles, viz. *Ragland*, W.—*Chepstow*, N. E.—*White*, W.—*Grosmond*, W.—*Skinfrith*, N.—*Caldecot*, S. W.—*Usk*, W.—*Newport*, E. Also of *Tintern* Abbey. N. E.——A W. view and ichnography of the latter, by J. Harris is in Stevens' Monasticon, Vol. II. p. 57.

Grose and Sparrow engraved views of the Castles of Chepstow, Newport, and Abergavenny.——Views of *Chepstow* Castle have been engraved by Grimm, Sandby, and Chesham.

The most correct MAP of the County is that published in Coxe's Historical Tour. A small Map, displaying the Roman Roads, stations, Castles, &c. is given in the "*British Atlas*."

# INDEX

*To the Topographical account of Monmouthshire.*

*FORMING PART OF THE ELEVENTH VOLUME OF THE*

## BEAUTIES OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

The MARKET TOWNS are distinguished by small Capitals; the *Villages* by Italics.


A

ABBIES, Grace-Dieu, 63; Lanthony, 80-85; Lantarnam, 110; Caerleon, 136; Tintern, 158-163.

ABERGAVENNY Hundred, 75-110; extent of, 75; parishes in, 76; mountains in, 77.

ABERGAVENNY, situation of, Roman station, 91; ancient history, 92, 93; castle, 93, 94, priory, 94, 95; church, 95; monuments, 96, 97; grammar-school, 98; trade, buildings, 99.

*Aberyst-with*, church, 101; anecdotes of Edmund Jones, a native, 102, 103.

Agricultural cultivation, 25.

ANECDOTES of, Walter William Jones, 50; Geoffry of Monmouth, 51-54; King Henry V. 55-59; Sir Thomas Somerset, 61; John of Kent, 73, 74; Edmund Jones, 102, 103; John Hanbury, Esq. 107, 108; Morgan family, 114; Sir Trevor Williams, 140; Henry Marquis of Worcester, 150-154; Henry Marten, 177, 178.

B

*Bassaleg*, priory, encampment, 113.

Bleanavon, Iron works near, 101.

Blestium, Roman station, 3, 40 77.

Blorenge mountain, 100.

Burrium, Roman station, 3, 91 141.

*Byd-wellty*, church, iron works, 112.

C

CAERLEON, the Isca Silurum of the Romans, 124; ancient history, 125, 126; successive possessors, ancient seat of literature 127; and see of an archbishop, 128; fortifications, Roman walls, 129; amphitheatre, 130, 131; Roman antiquities, tesselated pavements, 132; inscriptions, 133; sculpture, castle, 134; abbey, church, curious wooden bridge, 136; tin works, Roman cinders, 137; encampment, 138, 139; anecdotes of Sir Trevor Williams. 140.

*Caerwent*, the Venta Silurum of the Romans, 169; walls, 170; Roman antiquities, Mosaic pavement, 171; present state, 172;

Caldecot castle, ruins of, 173, 174.

CALDICOT Hundred, 163-184

184; situation of, 163, parishes in, 164.
Caldecot Level, 168.
Canals, 29-31.
Caps, once an important manufacture, 47, 48.
CASTLES, observations on, 12; number of in this county, 13; Monmouth castle, 41-44; White castle, 63-66; Scenfreth, 68, 69; Grosmont, 71, 72; Abergavenny, 93, 94; Castell Glas, 115; Castell Tregreg, 139; Usk, 142; Raglan, 150-156; Penhow, 164; Pencoed, Lanvair, 165; Skigil, 166; Caldecot, 173, 174; Chepstow, 176-178.
Castell Glas, or Green Castle, ancient fortress, 115.
Castell Tregreg, ancient fortress, 139.
CHEPSTOW, situation of, 175, 180; encampments, 176; castle, 176-178; account of Henry Marten, regicide, 177, 178; priory, 178; architectural remains, monument, 179; high tide of the Wye, bridge, 180; imports and exports, religious houses, remarkable well, 181.
CHURCHES described; in Monmouth, St. Mary, and St. Thomas, 49; Landeilo Cresseney, 67; Lanthony abbey, 83, 84; Abergavenny, 95; Aberystwith, 101; Bydwellty, 112: Peterstone, 114; Malpas, 116; Newport, 121; Caerleon, 136; Usk, 144.

E

Ebwy, river, course of, 20, 112.
ENCAMPMENTS, observations on, 11, 12; Campston Hill, 76; on the Gaer, 85; at Lanidell, 104; at Bassaleg, 113; at Caerleon, 138, 139; at Usk, 148, 149; at Portscewit, 174; at Chepstow, 176.
Ewias, vale of, romantic beauties of, 79.

G

Gaerhill, encampment, 85.
Geoffry of Monmouth, account of, 51-54.
Gobannium. Roman station, 3
Gold-Cliff priory, 168; cliff, 168, 169.
*Grosmont*, once a town, still governed by a mayor, 70; church 71: castle, history and remains of, 71, 72.

H

Hanbury, John, memoirs of 107, 108.
Henry the fifth, King, character of, 55,59.

I

INSCRIPTIONS. at Caerleon, 133; at Trelech, 158; at St. Pierre, 175.
Iron works, importance of, 33, 101, 113; list of manufactories, 34.
Isca-Silurum, Roman station, 3, 124.

J

Japan, or Pontypool, ware, invention of, 105.
Jones, Walter William, account of, 50.
Jones, Edmund, divine, account of, 102, 103.

K

Kent, John of, anecdotes of, 73, 74.
Kymin, hill and pavilion, 59, 60.

L

Landeilo House, seat, 67.
*Landogo*, 158.
*Landeilo Cresseney*, 63; White Castle, History of, 63; remains 64;

64; architecture, 65; possessors, 66; church, 67.
Langibby House, seat, 140.
*Lanidell*, encampment, 104.
Lantarnam Abbey and House, 110.
Lanthony Abbey, history of, 80-83; conventual church, 83, 84.
*Lanvihangle Crucorney*, old mansion, 85.
Lainvair Castle, 165.
Llanwenarth Hills, 89.
Llanwern House, seat, 167.

M

Malpas church, singular architecture, 116.
Marten, Henry, account of, 177, 178.
Monasteries &c. names, orders, foundation, grantees, and situation of, 16.
MONMOUTH, situation of, 40; castle, history of, 41-43; remains of, 44; priory, hospitals, privileges, 45; representation, trade, 46; manufacture of caps, 47; walls, buildings, 48; churches, St. Mary's and St. Thomas, 49; free-school, memoirs of the founder, county gaol, houses, 51; eminent natives, Geoffry of Monmouth; 51-54; King Henry V, 55-59; picturesque scenery, 59; description of the Kymen, 59, 60, and of Troy House and Gardens, 61, 62.
MONMOUTHSHIRE, general description, history, topography, and local beauties of, 1-184; ancient inhabitants, 1; subjugation by the Romans 2, 3; Roman stations, 3; Roman Roads 4-7; Roman antiquities, 7; historical events, 7, 10; encampment 11; castles 12; Ecclesiastical history and antiquities, 13, 14; churches, observations on the structure of 14, 15; monastic foundations, 16; geographical description, divisions, extent and population 16, 17; representation, titles of honor, 18; rivers, 18-20; surface, air, fogs, 20; productions 21; soil, agriculture, 22; oxen, sheep, 23; horses, mules, 24; cultivation, 25; Roads 26; Rail roads described 27-29, canals, 29; Monmouthshirecanal, course, extent and importance of, 29-31; dykes and walls, 31, 32; trade and manufactures, 32-35; Pontypool ware, 32; Iron works, importance and progress of, 33; list of Iron manufactories, 33; commerce, customs, 34; language, 35; maintenance of the poor, 37, 38; population of Hundreds and town, 39.
Monnow, river, course of, 20.
MONUMENTS and TOMBS: of Sir Richard Herbert and family 96; John de Hastings, Sir Andrew Powel and Lady, Dr. David Lewis, 97; Henry Earl of Worcester, 179.
Mosaic Pavement at Caerwent described, 171.
Mountains, chain of, 77; Skyrrid Vawr, 85; Skyrrid Vach 89; Llanwenarth, 89; Penry-vale, 90; Blorenge, 100.
Mules, utility of, 24.
Mynydd-Maen, mountain, description of, 109.

N

Nanty-glo-, Iron works at, 103.
Newcastle, tumulus, legendary tales, 67, 68.
NEWPORT, ancient history, treachery of Henry II, 117; castle, walls, gates, 119; charter, corporation, representation, 120; church, barrow, 121; bridge, commerce, shipping, 122; imports and exports, 123.

O

Oak-room, a large apartment floored and wainscotted, with planks

planks from one Oak tree 114.
*Old-castle*, 77; character of Sir John Oldcastle, 78.
Oxen, peculiarities of, 23.

P

Passage, new, across the Severn, 175.
Pencoed castle, 165.
Penhow castle, 164.
Pen-y-vale, or the sugar loaf, lofty hill, described, 90.
Peterstone church, 114.
PICTURES at Pontypool park, 107.
*Pierre, St.* mansion, sepulchral stones, inscription, 175.
Piercefield, seat, extensive prospects, 182, 183; mansion, successive possessors, 184.
PONTYPOOL, situation, 104; rise from a village, 105; invention of Japan or Pontypool ware, 105; iron works, buildings, 106.
Pontypool park, 106; scenery, mansion, pictures, 107; memoirs of John Hanbury Esq. 107, 108.
Poor, returns respecting, 37, 38.
Population of the Hundreds, 39.
PORTRAITS of Mrs. Swinnerton, 63; Sir John Maynard, 114.
*Portscewit*, encampment, 174.
PRIORIES: at Monmouth, 45; near Langwa, 76; at Abergavenny, 94; at Usk, 143; Goldcliff, 168; Chepstow, 178, 179.

R

RAGLAN Hundred, 149-163; situation of, parishes in, 149.
*Raglan* castle 150-156; memoirs of Henry Marquis of Worcester 150-154.
Rail-roads, particular description of 27-29.
Rivers: Severn, Wye, 18, Usk, 19; Rumney, Monnow, Ebwy, 20.
Rumney, river, course of, 20.
ROMAN STATIONS, ROADS, and ANTIQUITIES in Monmouthshire, 3-10; at Monmouth, 40; in Abergavenny hundred, 85; at Abergavenny, 91; at Caerleon, 124, 129, 132-134, 138, 139; at Usk, 141, 144; at Caerwent, 169-172.

S

Severn, river, course of, 18; ferry over, 175.
SCENFRETH Hundred, 39-75; extent of, 39; parishes in, 40;
Scenfreth castle, dimensions, architecture and history of, 68, 69.
Sheep, peculiarities of, 23.
Silures, ancient inhabitants of this country, 1, 2.
Skigil castle, 166, 167.
Skyrrid Vawr, Gaping mountain, description of, and observations on, 85-89.
Skyrrid Vach, or Little Skyrrid, description of, 89.
Somerset, Sir Thomas, anecdote of, 61.

T

Tintern abbey, ruins of, 158; origin and endowments, 159; site and appearance, 160; architecture, 161, 162.
Tredegar Park, seat, mansion house, singular apartment, pictures, 114.
Trelech, or Three stones, ancient British remains, description of, 156, 157; tumulus, wells, 157; sculpture, inscriptions, 158.
Treowen, seat, 62.
Troy house, seat, gardens, 61.
Tumulus at Newcastle, legendary tales respecting, 67, 68.

V

Venta-Silurum, Roman station, 3, 169.

U

Usk, river, course of, 19.

USK Hundred, 123—149; situation of, 123; parishes in 123, 124.
Usk, Roman station, ancient extent and importance, 141; castle, 142; priory, borough, charter, buildings, 143; church, 144; bridge, 145; salmon fishery, 145-147; encampments, 148, 149.

W

WENTLOOG Hundred, 111—123; extent of, parishes in 111.
Went-wood, forest, 164-167.
Williams, Sir Trevor, anecdotes of, 140.
Wonastow court, seat, 62; portraits, 63.
Worcester, Henry Marquis of, memoirs of, 150-154.
Wye, river, course of, 18, 19; high tide of, 180.
Wynd-cliff, lofty rock, extent of prospect, 183.

END OF MONMOUTHSHIRE.

THE

# BEAUTIES

OF

# England and Wales.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THIS county is situated nearly in the centre of England, and from its extended and irregular figure, borders on more counties than any other shire in the kingdom. Towards the north, the rivers Avon, and Welland divide it from Leicestershire, Rutlandshire, and Lincolnshire; on the east it is bounded by Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, and Bedfordshire; on the south, by Buckinghamshire, and part of Oxfordshire; and on the west, the Charwell secures it from another portion of Oxfordshire, whilst the Leam, for a short distance, and then the old Roman Watling-Street, separate it from Warwickshire. To the north-east, the limits, or county boundaries, are not fixed with certainty. About the year 1670, the inhabitants of Crowland, in Lincolnshire, laid claim, to about four hundred acres of ground adjoining the great Borough-Fen, and which were formerly considered as part of this county; but the inhabitants of the Soke asserting their right of possession, the dispute, by trial at law, was determined in their favor. A commission was then issued to a jury of gentlemen, of which Sir Edmundbury Godfrey is said to have been foreman, who came from London to view the premises, and terminate the contest. For this purpose they traced the boundaries of the county, from St. Martin's, at Stamford, with great exactness; and Northamptonshire was adjudged to

extend eastward as far as Crowland Bridge. But in the parish of Barnack, the most northern situation in the county, the distinct limits were not then settled, and still continue, as in some adjoining parishes, uncertain. The extent of Northamptonshire, in its present state, may be estimated at nearly 66 miles, in its longest diameter, i. e. from its most western verge at Aynho, to the remotest north-eastern limit near Crowland. Its greatest breadth, from Hargrave in the east, to Barby in the west, is estimated at about thirty miles; yet the average width, perhaps, is not twenty miles: and from Brackley across to Astrop in the south, also from Peterborough, in a northerly direction to Peakirk, does not exceed eight miles. The circumference may be estimated at 216 miles, and the superficial area of the whole has been computed at 550,000 acres; but the latest authorities referred to in the poor returns to Parliament, state it to be 617,000, of which 290,000 are said to be arable, 235,000 in pasturage, and about 86,000 uncultivated, including woodlands. It contains one city, 11 market towns, 336 parishes, and, according to the latest population returns, 27,401 houses, and 131,757 inhabitants.

At the time of the general Norman Survey, there were thirty hundreds and Wapentakes in the county of Northampton, as we find them recorded in Domesday Book, viz. Wicesle (Wapentake), Gravesende, Coltrewesto, Corbei, Wilebroc, Rodewelle, Maleste, Nevesland, Hecham, Hocheslau, Ordinbaro, Claislund, Sutone, Nivebote, Naresford, Stodfalde, Wardone, Wimersle, Hanvordesho, Gillesburg, Stoche, Pochebroc, Optone, Aluratleu, Spelho, Foxle, Towcestre, Alboldeston, Colstreu, Alwardeslea. When this survey was made, a considerable part of Rutlandshire was included in the county of Northampton; but in the fifth year of King John, we have mention made of it as a separate shire; and by an inquisition taken, in the fourth of Edward the First, it was certified to have been given by Henry the Third to the King of the Almains. By a later division the hundreds were reduced to twenty-eight; and in the reign of Edward the Second they were further contracted to the present

number of twenty, and were called by the names which they now bear: ten being comprehended in the eastern division of the county, and ten in the western.

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES, &c. When the Romans took possession of the central part of Britain, they found it occupied by a tribe of people known by the name of *Coritani;* an account of whom has already been given in the third volume of the present work. These being subjugated, their conquerors soon began to form *military roads* and *fortresses,* of which it is intended to give a concise account of such as were included within that part of their territory, since called Northamptonshire. Two great roads, or via-strata, crossed the county; and were directly or collaterally connected with several permanent stations, temporary encampments, and vicinal-ways. The WATLING-STREET, in proceeding from the south, towards the north, enters Northamptonshire, at, or near Stratford, and continuing in almost a direct line across the county, leaves it at Dove-Bridge. On this course there appears to have been three stations, as mentioned both in the second and sixth Iters of Antoninus: and also in the Itinerary of Richard of Cirencester.* These were *Lactodorum,* 17 Roman miles from Magiovinium; *Bennavennam,* or *Isannavotia,* 12 miles from the first; and *Tripontium* 12 miles distant from the latter. Much difference of opinion has prevailed among antiquaries respecting the sites of these stations; and it will not be an easy task to reconcile the disputes of those who argue from maxims of theory, rather than the evidence of remains, situations, and probable description. From the known and indisputable station of *Verulam,* St. Alban's, the Watling-Street in its progress northward passed *Durocobrivis,*

 near

* A new commentary on this work, with "*the Description of Britain translated from Richard of Cirencester,*" has recently been published in one volume 8vo. It is evidently the work of a writer, who has devoted much care and time to the subject, and who appears to have been assisted by some able and learned correspondents. The author has modestly, but unwisely withheld his name.

near Dunstable, and *Magiovinium,* in the vicinity of Stratford. From this to Lactodorum was 17 miles, which distance, with the name still retained of Tow-*Cester,* and the vestiges of the place, are tolerably satisfactory proofs, as to the site of this station. The Bishop of Cloyne, says unequivocally that Towcester "must have been the Lactodorum." The next Roman town on this road was *Benaventa,* or *Bennavennum,* which has been variously placed at Wedon-Bec,* at Castle-Dykes, and near Daventry; but the superior claims of the latter are decisive from a mere cursory view of each place. Here is the immense encampment† called Borough-hill; also the remains of other fortifications named Burnt-walls, &c. in a valley to the west. In an adjoining wood, close to the present turnpike road, are other military works, called *John* of *Gaunt's* Castle, which probably constituted part of the Roman station. Twelve miles north of this was *Tripontium,* a name descriptive of its situation, and character. This station is usually assigned to *Lilburn,* where is a conical artificial hill, probably the keep of a fortress, and some castrametations. Causeways, pavements, and other ancient vestiges have been found here.‡

Besides the stations and roads already noticed, there appears to have been other works of the Romans on the western side of this county. The great encampment called *Castle-Dykes,* southwest of Wedon, appears to have been either formed, or altered by the Romans. It was a fortress of great strength and magnitude. About three miles to the east is *Nether-Heyford,* where part of a *tessellated pavement* was discovered in 1699. This was, however,

* Camden and Stukeley, concur in placing Benaventa at Wedon; but Gale argues in favour of *Castle-Dykes.*

† This is similarly formed and situated to the great *castra-æstiva* in the vicinity of Dorchester, in Dorsetshire, which has been described in the fourth volume of this work.

‡ Bridges describes these remains; also Stukeley in Itiniarium Curiosum, p. 106, and Camden. Horsley thinks that Tripontium was at Rugby or Bugby in Warwickshire. See Britannia Romana, p. 436. Moreton, in his Natural History, p. 507, gives the fullest account of this place.

however, only a fragment of a common floor, though Moreton describes it as "a noble piece of art, exceeding all that I have seen, or read of."*

About three miles south-west of Daventry is ARBURY-BANKS, a large *encampment* on the summit of a hill. Moreton and Reynolds attribute this to the Romans; and the former describes it as being on "one of the highest hills in the county." At *Guilsborough*, are some entrenchments, called "THE BOROUGHS," which Stukeley pronounced to be "traces of a Roman camp." In the south-western angle of the county, between the villages of Aynho, and Newbottle, is another *entrenchment* called RAYNSBURY-CAMP. From what has been already stated, it is evident that the western side of Northamptonshire abounded with military posts, during the Roman colonization of England: and from reviewing this district, with the parts of Warwickshire, and Oxfordshire, immediately adjoining, we shall find such other traces of the Romans as may serve to develope their general systems of military and political tactics, as these were evinced in a conquered country. In nearly a direct line, south from Raynsbury Camp, in the county of Oxford, the remains of a Roman road, called the *port-way* points towards *Aldcester* and *Chesterton;* and nearly parallel with that street, is a raised mound, named *Aveditch-bank*. These appear to have formed a communication between the fortress at Chesterton, and that at Raynsbury: it is indeed extremely probable that the same road, continued to, and formed a connecting line with the other great works at Castle-Dykes, Borough Hills, &c.†

For the other ancient remains, which may be strictly attributed to the Romans, we shall have to refer to the eastern side of the county, where the *Roman road*, called the *forty-foot-way*, or *Ermine-street*, is to be found. This enters the county from Huntingdonshire,‡ near the village of Castor, where it passed the Nen

 river.

* See "Natural History, &c." p. 527. where is a plate of it,

† See Plot's Nat. Hist. of Oxfordshire, p. 320, &c.

‡ Its course through that county has been described in Vol. VII. p. 327, of this work.

river. Parts of this road, are still lofty and conspicuous between Castor and Upton; and again in the parish of Barnack. The only station, in this county on the line, was *Durobrivæ* which was at or near *Castor:* some account of this has already been given in the history of Huntingdonshire.

In order to show that the Romans occupied places, and established permanent habitations in other parts of the county, it will be sufficient to point out the spots where vestiges of those people have been found. The most considerable of their remains are some *tessellated pavements,* or floors of different rooms which were found at WELDON in the year 1738. The plan displayed, a long gallery, about 90 feet by 10; which communicated with seven other apartments. The whole formed nearly a parallelogram of 100 feet by 30; and consisted of foundation walls, and floors made of small tesseræ, laid in the common patterns.* Numerous coins of the lower Roman empire, and several of Constantine, Constans, &c. were discovered at the same time.

At COTTERSTOCK near Oundle, a *tessellated pavement,* was found in the year 1736. It measured about 20 feet square;† and among the rubbish were fragments of urns, with shells, tiles, and horns and bones of beasts. In the year 1798, some further discoveries were made in the same field; consisting of one pavement nearly perfect, and fragments of others; also several coins, &c.‡

At THORPE, near Peterborough, Dr. Stukely says that a mosaic pavement was discovered; and at STANWICH near Higham-Ferrars, Bridges describes a tessellated floor to have been found.

The

* A plate, representing four fragments of the pavement, with several of the coins, was engraved by J. Cole, from a drawing by J. Lens, at the expence of Lord Hatton. The manor of Weldon then belonged to his Lordship, whose seat was at Kirby in the vicinity.

† A plate has been engraved of this *pavement* by Vertue for the Society of Antiquaries.

‡ A print of the pavement, with some of the coins, are engraved for Gibson's "Comment on the fifth Iter. of Antoninus," &c. 4to. 1800.

The names of IRCHESTER and CHESTER, near Wellingborough, induce us to expect something Roman there; and accordingly we find the remains of an *encampment* at Chester, of nearly a square form, which included an area of about 20 acres within its outer banks. Parts of brick pavements, coins, foundations of walls, and other ancient relics have been found at this place, which is on the banks of the river Nen.

Near the same river, in *Woodford* field, "are manifest signs," according to Moreton, "of a place possessed by the Romans." Fragments of *tessellated pavements*, an urn and some other vestiges have been found at this village.

Such are the chief remains which have been discovered, relating to the Romans in this county: and from these it appears evident that nearly the whole of the open parts of it was subservient to their military domination. On the banks of the Nen and Welland, it is probable that they occupied other fortresses, and villa's; but these have never yet been sufficiently explored, or the entrenchments, satisfactorily described. Mr. Reynolds, in his "Iter Britannarium," gives the following list of places, where certain antiquities have been found, that indicate Roman possession. *Badby, Barnack, Barnwell, Castor, Catesby, Charlton, Chester, Chipping-Warden, Cogenhoo, Cotterstock, Drayton, East-Farndon, Guilsborough, Kettering, Northampton, Pauls-perry, Piddington, Ringstead, Stanwick, Old Stratford, Thorpe, Wedon-Bec, Wedon-Pinkney, Great Weldon, Whilton, Wollaston,* and *Woodford.*

SAXON and NORMAN ERAS, ENCAMPMENTS, and CASTLES. Soon after the Saxons had usurped possession of Britain, they subdivided it into different kingdoms, or states; and the present county was included within the Mercian Monarchy. Under this the great monasteries of *Medenhamsted,* now Peterborough; and Crowland in the same district were founded. Indeed the former was the first, in the time of formation, and most important in size and consequence within the kingdom of Mercia; and this like its neighbour at Crowland, was plundered, and burnt

by the Danes in their different predatory excursions into this part of the island. Medenhamsted, however, became so famous, that it was called *Urbs-Regia*, the royal city; and just before the Roman conquest it was pre-eminently distinguished by the title of *Aurea-Civitas*, or Golden city. From King Wulfere's charter of endowments and privileges to this monastery, dated 664, we learn that several places in the vicinity were tributary to it. Among these the following names of towns and villages occur; *Wansford, Cliff*, called *Kings-Cliff, Estune*, now *Easton*, and *Northborough*. Other places are named in King Edgar's Charter, Anno 972. *Oundle*, then called *Undale*, is recorded in the Saxon Chronicle, A.D. 709, when Bishop *Wilferth* died there. In Edgar's Charter this place is referred to as a market-town of considerable note. At *Stamford Baron*, the monks of Medenhamsted kept a *Monetarium*, or mint. *Hamtune*, now Northampton, is mentioned two or three times in the Saxon Chronicle: and it is generally admitted that this was a place of considerable strength and consequence during the repeated conflicts between the Saxons and Danes. The latter indeed kept possession of it for some time; Moreton says, about 39 years; and during their siege of, and residence in this town, it is said that the *encampment*, south of the place, called *Huntsborough-Camp*, was formed. It is not only probable, but well authenticated that the Saxons, Danes, and Normans, alternately and successively took possession of the chief Roman stations; and adapted them to their respective modes of attack and defence. In this county, *Toseceaster*, or *Towcester*, appears to have been burnt by the Danes, and King Edward ordered it to be rebuilt. In the year 921, this monarch with his army marched to Passenham, in order to expel the Danes from this part of the country. At this time Towcester was encompassed with a *wall* of stone: and Moreton conjectures that the King caused a small square *encampment* to be made on the Ouse at Passenham at that time.

Of entrenchments, and castellated remains, not hitherto named, there are traces and traditions concerning one, at each of the following places; *Rockingham, Braybrook, Higham-Ferrars*,

*rars, Drayton, Geddington, Fineshed, Earls-Barton, Fotheringhay, Barnwell, Maxey, Preston-Capes, Sulgrave, Culworth, Thorpe-Waterville, Weekley, Cottingham, Longthorpe,* &c. &c. Many of these, it is presumed, were the sites of the first Norman Baronial Castles.

Soon after the Norman conquest, the county of Northampton was granted, and subdivided in the following proportions, to the persons hereafter named. To *Alan Rufus* Earl of Britain, 1 manor; *Waltheof* Earl of Northampton, 4 manors: *Judith* his countess, 88 manors: *Robert* Earl of Moreton and Cornwall, 99 manors: *Robert,* Earl of Millent and Leicester, 3 manors: *Robert de Vesci,* 1; and *Robert de Todenei,* 9 manors. *Robert de Stafford,* 1: *Alberic de Vere,* 6: *Jeffery de Magnaville,* 7: *Walter D'Eincourt,* 1: *Gumfrid de Coiches,* 16: *Ralph de Limesi,* 2: *Ralph de Grantmesnil,* 20: *William Fitz-Ausculph,* 4: *William Peverel,* 4· *Robert D'Oyley,* 3: *Ranulph de Peverel,* 44 Lordships. Besides these the King retained several lordships; others were belonging to monasteries, and some were granted to various inferior persons.

*A List of the Monasteries, &c. in the County of Northampton.*

| *Names of Places.* | *Orders.* | *Founded.* | *Granted to* | *Near* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aynho | Hospital | temp. Hen. II. | Mag. Col. Ox. 1484 | Brackley |
| Canons Ashby | Bl. Can. P. | temp. Hen. II. | Sir Fras. Bryan | Banbury |
| Armston | Hospital | 1232 | Sir Edw. Montague | Oundle |
| Brackley | *Hospital | temp. Hen. II. | Mag. Col. Ox. | ——— |
| Billing Parva | Aug. P. | temp. W$^{m}$. I. | Cell to St. Andrews, Northampton | Northampton |
| Castor | Nunnery | refounded 946 | transferred to Peterborough | Peterborough |
| Catesby | *Cistert. P. | ante 1247 | John Onley | Daventry |
| Chacomb | Aug. Can. P. | temp. Hen. II. | Michael Foxe | Banbury |
| Coltesbrook | Præmonst. Cell to Sulby | ——— | Francis Pygot | Northampton |
| Cotterstock | College | 1339..... | ——— | Oundle |
| Daventry | *Cluniac P. | 1090..... | ——— | ——— |
| De la Pré | Cluniac A. | temp. Steph. | John Mershe | Northampton |
| Dingley | Kn. Hosp$^{ts}$. | ——— | Edward Hastings | Harborough |

*Names*

| *Names of Places.* | *Orders.* | *Founded.* | *Granted to* | *Near* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Everdon | Alien P. | ——— | Eton Col. 16 Hen. VI. | Daventry |
| Eyebury | Cell to Peterboro' | ——— | ——— | Peterborough |
| Fineshade | Bl. Can. A. | temp. John | John Lord Russel | King's Cliffe |
| Fotheringhay | Nunnery | ——— | annexed to Delapré, temp. Steph. | Oundle |
| ——— | College | 1412 | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | ——— | refounded by Edw. IV. | Duke of Northumland, 6 Ed. VI. | ——— |
| Grafton Regis | Hermitage | ——— | ——— | ——— |
| Gare | Bened. P. | ——— | ——— | ——— |
| Harrington | Kn. Hosp$^{ls}$. | temp. Hen. III. | Francis Pygot | Rowell |
| Higham Ferrars | *College | temp. Hen. V. | Robert Dacres | ——— |
| ——— | Hospital | Ditto | ——— | ——— |
| Irtlingborough | College | temp. Ed. III. | ——— | Higham |
| Kingsthorp | Hospital | 1200 | Hugh Zeelley | Northampton |
| Luffield | Bened. P. | temp. Hen. I. | became Cell to Westminster | Towcester |
| Northampton | St. Andrews | ——— | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | Cluniac P. | about 1076 | Sir Thomas Smyth | ——— |
| ——— | Franciscan | ——— | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | Gr. Friars | temp. Hen. III. | Richard Taverner | ——— |
| ——— | Bl. —— | ante 1240 | William Ramsden | ——— |
| ——— | Wh. —— | —— 1271 | Ditto | ——— |
| ——— | Aus. —— | —— 1322 | Robert Dighton | |
| ——— | *St. John Hos. | about 1168 | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | *St. Tho$^{s}$. — | about 1450 | ——— | ——— |
| ——— | St. Mary — | ——— | ——— | ——— |
| Northolm | Cell to Peterboro' | ——— | ——— | Peterborough |
| Oxney | Ditto | ——— | ——— | Ditto |
| Pipwell | Cister. A. | temp. Steph. | W. Marquis of Northampton, 1 Ed. VI. | Rowell |
| Piribo | St. John Hos. | ——— | ——— | ——— |
| Peterborough | *Bened. A. | 655 | destroyed 870 | ——— |
| ——— | ——— | refounded 970 | See of Peterborough | ——— |
| ——— | St. Leonard Hos. | uncert. | Ditto..... | ——— |
| ——— | St. Thomas Becket Hos. | about 1180 | ——— | ——— |
| Peakirk | Monastery | 716 | annexed to Peterborough 1048 | Peterborough |
| Preston Capes | Monastery | temp. W$^{m}$. I. | removed to Daventry | Daventry |
| Rowell | Aus. P. | uncertain | Henry Lee | ——— |

*Names*

| *Names of Places.* | *Orders.* | *Founded.* | *Granted to* | *Near* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sewardsley | Cistert. P. | Hen. II. | Richard Fermor | Towcester |
| St. James | Bl. Can. A. | ante 1112 | Nich. Gifford | Northampton |
| Sulby | Præmons. A. | about 1155 | Chris. Hatton | Wilford |
| Stamford Baron | Bened. P. | 1155 | Richard Cecil | ——— |
| ——— | St. John and St. Tho$^{s}$ Hos. | about 1176 | See of Peterborough | ——— |
| Towcester | College | temp. Hen. VI. | ——— | ——— |
| Wedon Bec | Monastery | temp. Saxons about 680 | destroyed by the Danes | Daventry |
| Wedon Pinkney | Alien P. | ——— | All Souls Col. Ox. Hen. VI. | Banbury |
| Wothorp | Aust. Can. | ——— | ——— | Stamford |

Ecclesiastical History, with concise accounts of the Bishops of Peterborough.---The precise period of the introduction of Christianity into this island, cannot be clearly ascertained, and its progress through the different districts, is involved in equal obscurity: according to Kennett,* "In the year 634, Birinus, a missionary from Pope Honorius, having converted the West-Saxons to Christianity, founded an episcopal see at *Dorchester*," in Oxfordshire. In 680, a council was held at Hatfield, by Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, to settle the ecclesiastical constitution, and by the alteration then introduced, "the see of Dorchester, which, from the time of Birinus, belonged to the West-Saxons pertained from henceforward to the kingdom of Mercia." During the intestine commotions, which convulsed the two kingdoms, there was no regular succession of bishops, till king Offa having recovered Bensington, or Benson, in Oxfordshire, from the West-Saxons, about the year 779, re-settled the see of Dorchester, and in 794, the diocese is said, by Mathew of Westminster, to have included, "the counties of Oxford, Buckingham, Huntingdon, Cambridge, *Northampton*, and half of Hertfordshire," Thus it continued for nearly three centuries, when by the authority of a council, held at London, in 1072, Dor-

* Paroch. Antiq. p. 26.

Dorchester, being considered too insignificant a place, this episcopal see was transferred to *Lincoln*, and Northamptonshire remained under its jurisdiction, till Henry the Eighth, having seized the temporalities, and secularized the abbey of *Peterborough*, erected one of the six new bishoprics there, in the year, 1541 ; at the same time, he ordained by letters patent, that it should consist of a bishop, a dean, six prebendaries, and an archdeacon. Since the foundations of this see, the following prelates have successively filled the episcopal chair :

John Chambers, the *last abbot*, and *first bishop*, was a native of *Peterborough*, a benedictine monk, and placed at the head of the abbey, in 1528. The year following, Cardinal Wolsey spent his Easter here, in great state, carrying his palm, and going with the monks, in procession, on Palm Sunday. In 1534, Abbot Chambers, in conjunction, with John Walpool, the prior, and thirty-seven other monks, formally acknowledged the king's supremacy, under their hand and seal ; and in 1540, he resigned the abbey to the king, and had a liberal pension allowed him, but, before the expiration of another year, in consideration, probably, of those repeated proofs of prompt or rather servile subserviency to the views of the imperious Henry ; he was presented with the new mitre, and had the temporalities of this see consigned to him on the 14th of September, though his consecration did not take place till the 23d of October, 1541. On his decease, in 1556, Queen Mary the first nominated

David Pole, or Poole, LL.D. who was consecrated, August 15, 1557, whose election was confirmed by a bull of Pope Paul the Fourth. He was descended from a noble family, received his education at Oxford, where he became a fellow of All Souls College, and having acquired considerable eminence in the study of the civil and canon law, was appointed Archdeacon of Salop, Dean of the Arches, Archdeacon of Derby, and Chancellor of the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry. When Protestantism once more gained the ascendancy by Elizabeth's

suc-

succession to the throne, he lost his bishopric and his liberty, by refusing to acknowledge her supremacy; he was soon, however, restored to the latter, and retired to his estate, where he died in 1568, leaving all his books at London and Peterborough, to All Souls College. The vacancy in this see, arising from his removal, was supplied by

Edmund Scambler, D. D. a native of Gressingham, in Lancashire, and chaplain to Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was consecrated in January, 1560, and was permitted to hold in common with it, the Prebend of Wistow, in the cathedral of York, and a canonry in the church of Westminster. Whether judging an explicit declaration of religious principles expedient, or suspecting some of the chapter of being tainted with those of his predecessor, he was induced to draw up twenty-three articles, to which he required their subscription: certain it is, he was more tenacious of their *faith* than their *privileges*, for he surrendered to the crown the hundred and liberties of Nassaburgh, with the gaol and the manors of Southorp and Thirleby; in consideration of which he is said to have received the see of Norwich; when

Richard Howland, D. D. successively master of Magdalen and St. John's Colleges, Cambridge, was elected in his stead, 1584. In 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots, was beheaded at Fotheringhay castle, and buried in this Cathedral, on the 5th of August; but her son James, when he ascended the British throne, removed the body to Westminster Abbey.

After presiding over this diocese sixteen years, Bishop Howland died, at Castor, in 1600, and his remains were interred in the east end of his cathedral, without any memorial. He was succeeded by

Thomas Dove, D. D. Dean of Norwich, who had been the favorite chaplain of Queen Elizabeth, by whom he was raised to this see, for his eloquence, and presided over it thirty years, dying in 1630. He was buried in the north-cross aile, and a handsome monument erected to his memory, by his son, which

which was destroyed during the civil war. The Dean of the diocese,

William Pierse, D. D. became the new bishop; but scarcely two years elapsed, before be obtained the see of Bath and Wells, and

Augustine Lindsell, D. D. Dean of Lichfield, was introduced in 1632. Preferment followed him still more rapidly, for the year following, he was translated to Hereford, and his place here filled by

Francis Dee, D. D. who retained it till his death in 1638, and was buried at the upper end of the choir of his cathedral. He was a man of distinguished piety, and amiable manners. He evinced his attachment to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he was educated, by giving to it, during his life-time, the impropriate parsonage of Pagham, in Sussex, held by lease of the church of Canterbury, for the maintenance of two fellows and two scholars, for ever, to be elected out of *Peterborough school.* This bishopric was next bestowed on

John Towers, D. D. a native of Norfolk, who had previously obtained considerable preferment in this county, having been chaplain to the Earl of Northampton, who gave him the living of Castle Ashby, and in 1630, he succeeded Bishop Pierce in the deanery. When the bishops, in 1641, were deterred, or prevented from attending the House of Lords, by an insurrection of the populace, he joined eleven of his brethren, in entering a protest against "all such orders, votes, laws, resolutions, and determinations, as should be passed during their absence, from December 7, 1641, and declaring them to be null, and of no effect; for which they were all committed to the Tower, where they were confined four months."

On his release, he went to Peterborough, but finding his situation increasingly uncomfortable, repaired to the king at Oxford, and resided there till the surrender of that city, to the parliamentary forces, when he returned to Peterborough, and passed the remainder of his days in poverty and distress. He died the 10th of January, 1648, and was interred, the following day

day, between the choir and the altar, in the grave of Abbot Henry, of Morcot. During the temporary extinction of episcopacy, under the Commonwealth, this see, and indeed every other, lay dormant; but at the restoration of Charles the Second, in 1660, it was conferred on

Benjamin Laney, D. D. a native of Ipswich, who had been chaplain in ordinary to Charles the First, and at the same time Master of Pembroke Hall, Oxford, and Prebendary both of Winchester and Westminster. About 1642, he was deprived of his mastership for his distinguished loyality, and retired to the king, by whom he was employed in the treaty of Uxbridge, and when Charles the Second fled, he followed and attended him during his exile. Nor was Charles unmindful of this zealous attachment to, and sufferings in the royal cause, but took the earliest opportunity of re-instating him in the mastership of Pembroke Hall, gave him the deanery of Rochester, and permitted him to hold the mastership in common with this bishopric. His further advancement to Lincoln, in 1663, led to the elevation of

Joseph Henshaw, D. D. another suffering royalist, who, at the opening of the civil war, was deprived of all his preferments, despoiled of his goods, and obliged to compound, at an exorbitant rate, for a small temporal estate, but fortunately found an asylum, under the hospitable roof of Lady Paulett, at Chiswick; and when monarchy again gained the ascendant, was almost immediately appointed Dean of Chichester; and in 1663, Bishop of Peterborough, which last dignity, he enjoyed to the close of his life, in 1678. In May, 1679

William Lloyd, D. D. received this See in exchange for that of Llandaff, and on his further translation to Norwich, in 1685, it was entrusted to

Thomas White, D. D. a native of Kent, Chaplain to the Princess of Denmark, afterwards Queen Anne, and Archdeacon of Nottingham. He was installed in the Archbishop's Chapel, at Lambeth. White was one of the six spirited bishops, who, with Archbishop Sancroft at their head, signed and presented a petition to James the Second, stating in the most firm, though respectful

spectful terms, their objections to promulgating and distributing his declaration for liberty of conscience. This being deemed by that arbitrary monarch a seditious libel, they were all committed to the Tower, and brought to trial; but all were acquitted, to the unbounded joy of the people. The glorious Revolution speedily followed, and our conscientious prelate lost his bishopric by refusing to take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy to William and Mary: yet such is the force of religious prejudice, that over the grave of a man thus ever ready to sacrifice private interest on the altar of public duty, Dr. Hicks (it is said) could not be prevailed on to read the burial service, though appointed by the deceased himself to the performance of that last sad office! On his expulsion, their majesties made choice of

Richard Cumberland D. D.* a country clergyman, who, to his infinite surprise, walking into a coffee room, took up a newspaper, which gave him the first intimation of his good fortune; For this, it is presumed, he was principally indebted to his "De legibus naturæ disquisitio philosophica," &c. or a Philosophical Enquiry into the Laws of Nature: --- a work professedly directed against, and very successfully combating, the metaphisical subtleties of Hobbes. Having reached the patriarchial age of eighty-seven, no less distinguished by his virtues than his learning, he was carried off by a paralytic stroke in 1718, and his diocese transferred to

White Kennet, D. D. Dean of the Cathedral. Whilst at the University he commenced his career as a political party writer, but after his introduction into the *church* he turned his controversial powers into that channel, and published several tracts in opposition to popery, and in defence of the establishment.

He died in 1728, and in his room was appointed

Robert Clavering, D. D. Hebrew Professor at Oxford, whose removal by death in 1748, introduced

John Thomas, D. D. who had previously been made Dean in 1740. He was private tutor to his present Majesty; in which impor-

* A portrait, with a short character of this prelate, are given in Cumberland's *Memoirs*, 8vo. 1807.

important and highly responsible situation, he fortunately secured the approbation of his royal master, and the affection of his royal pupil; and reaped the harvest of their gratitude in the successive bishopries of Peterborough, Salisbury and Winchester. On his acceptance of Salisbury in 1757, this see devolved on

RICHARD TERRICK, D. D. one of the King's chaplains and canon residentiary of St. Pauls; who in 1764 exchanged it for the more honorable and lucrative one of London, when

ROBERT LAMB, LL. D. left the Deanery for the Palace, but did not live to enjoy this new accession of dignity, more than five years,

JOHN HINCHCLIFFE, D. D. Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, being collated to it in 1769. The ministry being desirous, for political reasons, of removing him from his mastership, he was induced to resign in 1778, and obtained the golden deanery of Durham, which he held in commendam with his bishopric till his death in 1794, when the mitre, which this truly respectable and conscientious prelate had worn for twenty-five years, was consigned to

SPENCER MADAN, D. D. then Bishop of Bristol; who is the present possessor of the See.

*Nobility of the County, with the titles derived from places in it; and a List of Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats.*

*Grafton* - This place gives title of *Duke* to Augustus Henry Fitzroy, (1675.)

*Thornhaugh* In 1603, the title of Baron Russel of *Thornhaugh* was conferred on the noble family of Russel.

*Burleigh* ..... Near Stamford, gave title to William Cecil, Baron Burleigh, in 1570.

*Northampton* This town has conferred the title of *Earl* from a very remote period: and in 1618, it was granted to William, Lord Compton; and is still continued in the same family.

*Peterborough*.....Gives the title of Earl to the Mordaunts, (1628).

*Harrington*... Charles Stanhope, Baron Harrington, 1729, Earl of Harrington, 1742.

*Norborough & Milton*..... William Wentworth Fitzwilliam, Earl Fitzwilliam, of *Norborough*, (1746,) Baron Fitzwilliam, of *Milton*, (1742) and Viscount *Milton* (1746.)

*Brackley*..... John William Egerton, Earl of Bridgewater, Viscount Brackley, (1616).

*Daventry*..... George Finch, Earl of Winchelsea, and Nottingham, Viscount Maidstone, Baron Fitzherbert, of Eastwell, and Baron Finch, of Daventry, (1673).

*Dean*..... James Brudenell, Earl of Cardigan, Baron Brudenell, of *Dean*, (1780).

*Althorpe*..... George John Spencer, Earl Spencer, Viscount *Althorpe*, (1765).

*Drayton*.....Sackville, Viscount Sackville, of Drayton, (1782).

*Boughton*..... Henry James Montague Scott, Baron Montague, of *Boughton*, (1786).

*Braybrooke*... Richard Aldworth Neville Griffin, Baron *Braybrooke*, (1788.)

*Lilford*.....Thomas Powys, Baron *Lilford*, (1797).

Norden, in his very short account of this county observes, "The fertilitie, salutarie ayre, pleasent prospects, and conveniencie of this shire, in all things, to a generous and noble mynde, have so allured nobilitie to plante themselves within the same, that no shire within this realme, can answer the like number of Noblemen, as are seated in these parts." Her Majesty, he says, had three seats, "Grafton, Colleweston, and Fotheringay," and eleven *parkes*; four more belonged to Noblemen, five to Knights, and five to squires. "So full," he further remarks "of gentry, that it may be called the *Herald's Garden*."

SEATS OF NOBILITY.

WAKEFIELD LAWN .....Duke of Grafton.

BURGHLEIGH HOUSE, near Stamford ..... Marquis of Exeter.

ALTHORPE, near Northampton.....Earl Spencer

APETHORPE, .....Earl of Westmoreland

CASTLE ASHBY, near Northampton ..... Earl of Northampton.

DEAN, near Weldon.....Earl of Cardigan

EASTON NESTON CASTLE, near Towcester..... Earl of Pomfret.

FARMING WOOD HALL, near Oundle ..... Earl of Upper Ossory.

MILTON ABBEY, near Peterborough..... Earl Fitzwilliam.

DRAYTON HOUSE, near Thrapston...Viscount Sackville.

RUSHTON HALL, near Kettering.....Viscount Cullen.

ALDWINKLE

ALDWINKLE, near Thrapston .....Dowager Lady Lilford.
BOUGHTON HOUSE, near Kettering..Duke and Duchess of Buccleugh
LILFORD, near Oundle.....Lord Lilford.
ROCKINGHAM CASTLE, near Upingham, ..... } Lord Sondes
WHITTLEBURY FOREST nr. Towcest. Lord Southampton.
PETERBOROUGH PALACE.....Bishop of Peterborough.

BARONETS AND COMMONERS.

CANONS ASHBY, near Towcester...Sir Edward Dryden, Bart.
BIGGIN HALL..... } Sir Isaac Pocock, residence of Charles Berkeley, Esq.
CARLTON, near Rockingham.....Sir John Palmer, Bart.
COTTESBROOK HALL, near Thornby..... } Sir William Langham, Bart.
COTTERSTOCK HALL, near Oundle...Lady Booth.
CLOPTON HALL.....Late Sir Booth Williams.
COURTEEN HALL, near Northampton..... } Sir William Wake, Bart.
CRANFORD HALL, near Kettering...Sir George Robinson, Bart.
FAWSLEY PARK, near Daventry.....Rev. Sir John Knightley, Bart.
FINEDON HALL, near Wellingborough..... } Sir William Dolben, Bart. residence of Earl of Egmont.
HORTON, near Northampton.....Sir Robt. Gunning, K. B.
LAMPORT HALL.....Sir Justinian Isham, Bart.
GREAT OAKLEY, near Kettering.....Sir R. Brooke de Capel Brooke, Bt.
SUDBOROUGH, near Thrapston.....Rev. Sir Thos. Hewett, Bart.
ABINGTON.....John Harvey Thursby, Esq.
ARTHINGWORTH HALL.....Rev. Langham Rokeby.
LEDGER'S ASHBY.....Mrs. Ashley.
LEDGERS ASHBY LODGE.....George Henry Arnold, Esq.
ASTROP.....Rev. William Shippen Willes.
AYNHO HALL.....W. Ralph Cartwright, Esq. M. P.
BAINTON.....Robert Henson, Esq.
EARL'S BARTON.....William Whitworth, Esq.
BARTON SEAGRAVE HALL.....Charles Tibbits, Esq.
BARTON SEAGRAVE PARSONAGE.....Hon. & Rev. R. B. Stopford.
BILLING PADDOCK .....Robert Carey Elwes, Esq.
BLAKESLEY HALL.....Mrs. Wright.
BLATHERWICK HALL.....Henry O'Brien, Esq.
BOUGHTON.....Rich. Wm. Howard Vyse, M. P.
LAXTON HALL, near Kingscliff.....George Freke Evans, Esq.

BRADDEN HOUSE.....Cornelius Ives, Esq.
BRIXWORTH HALL.....—Walter Strickland, Esq.
BROCKHALL.....Thomas Reeves Thornton, Esq.
BULWICK HALL.....Thomas Tryon, Esq.
BURTON LATIMER.....—— Harper, Esq.
CHACOMB PRIORY.....Charles Fox, Esq.
COLTINGHAM.....Henry Boulton, Esq.
COSGROVE.....John Christopher Mansell, Esq.
COSGROVE PRIORY..... } Ditto do. do. } Residence of Miss Lownds.
CRANFORD..... { Rev. Mr. Hutchin, belonging to Sir G. Robinson.
CRANSLEY.....John Capel Rose, Esq.
DALLINGTON..... } Miss Wright, residence of Robert Willis Blencowe, Esq.
DE-LA-PRE ABBEY.....Edward Bouverie, Esq.
DINGLEY HALL.....Late John Peach Hungerford.
EASTON, near Stamford.....Hon. John Monkton.
ECTON.....Samuel Isted, Esq.
EDGCOTT HALL.....Thomas Carter, M. P.
EYDON LODGE.....—Rev. Francis Annesley.
FARTHINGHOE.....George Rush, Esq.
FINESHADE ABBEY.....Hon. John Monckton.
FINEDON..... { Mrs. Raynsford, residence of John Gray.
GLENDON HALL.....Mrs. Booth,
GUILSBOROUGH HALL.....William Zouch LucasWard, Esq.
EAST HADDON HALL.....William Sawbridge, Esq.
HARLESTONE PARK.....Robert Andrews, Esq.
HOLLYWELL.....William Lucas, Esq.
IMLEY HALL.....Mrs. Browne.
KILMARSH HALL..... William Hanbury, Esq.
KINGSTHORPE..... { T. Reeve Thornton, Esq. residence of Lady Cave.
KIRBY..... { George Finch Hat on, Esq. unoccupied.
KNUSTON HALL.....Jos. Gulston, Esq.—Unoccupied.
MARSTON ST. LAWRENCE.....Samuel Blencour, Esq.
ORLINGSBURY.....Allen Edward Young, Esq.
OVERSTONE HALL.....John Kipling, Esq.
PITSFORD HALL..... } —— Money, Esq. residence of Andrew Corbet, Esq.

POLEBROKE.....Captain Hunt.
RINGSTEAD.....Leonard Burton, Esq.
SHELBROOK LAWN (Whittlebury Forest).....Hon. General Fitzroy.
SOUTHWICK HALL.....George Francis Lynn, Esq.
STANFORD HALL.....Henry Otway, Esq.
SUDBOROUGH HALL.....John Dore, belonging to the Earl of Darlington.
STOKE (Brian) PARK.....Levison Vernon, Esq.
SULBY HALL.....George Payne, Esq.
TEETON HOUSE.....John Langton, Esq.
THENFORD HALL.....Michael Woodhull, Esq.
THORPE LUBBENHAM HALL.....Francis Paul Stratford, Esq.
THORPE MALSER HALL.....Thomas Cecil Maunsell, Esq.
THURNBY HALL.....James Welden Roberts, Esq.
UFFORD HALL.....Edward Brown, Esq.
UPTON HALL.....Thos. Sam. Watson Samwell, Esq.
WADENHO HALL.....Thomas Hunt, Eqs.
WALCOT HOUSE.....Col. Neville Noel, residence of Stafford O'Brien, Esq.
WELTON PLACE.....John Plomer Clarke, Esq.
WHITTLEBURY.....Hon. and Rev. H. Beauclerk.
WOOLLASTON HALL.....Francis Dickens, Esq.
WOOTON HILL.....William Harris, Esq.
WICKEN.....Mrs. Prowse.

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES, NATURAL HISTORY, RIVERS, CANALS, FORESTS, &c.---At a former period the greatest portion of Northamptonshire was occupied by the forests of Salcey, Whittlewood and Rockingham: and these still cover above 18,000 acres of land. This space, however, is not wholly devoted to woods. For within the boundaries, numerous deer, cattle, horses and sheep, are fed. Many of these are afterwards fattened on the rich grazing lands of the county, and then sent to the London markets. The prevailing system of husbandry is grazing, and many of the farmers are justly noted for their skilful management of land and stock. Mr. Pitt, in his "General View," &c. bears this very honorable testimony in behalf of the Northamptonshire farmers. "They are not at all wanting in enterprize, energy,

energy, or the exertions necessary to effect improvements. Witness the great progress already made in the improvement of their sheep stock; and the activity and acuteness displayed in laying in their beasts for fatting. I have also found them, in general, liberal, communicative, and free from those narrow jealousies which are too often excited by the enquiries of a stranger." Mr. Donaldson observes "there are no very large farms within this county; for although great progress has of late years been made in inclosing the open fields, yet the lands are generally parcelled and let out again to the former tenants, who occupied them in the open field style, and to such extent as it is supposed their abilities and circumstances would enable them to manage properly; so that it is only in the old inclosed parishes where there are farms of any considerable extent, and even then the rent of one farm seldom exceeds 500*l.* a year." In the newly inclosed parishes the farms are generally from 100*l.* to 300*l.* per annum. Mr. Pitt remarks in "a particular examination of the county, in the year 1806, I find that the general modes of occupation may be reduced to four.

"1. The *common field* occupations, consisting of arable land in the common field in constant tillage, and enclosures near the town or village generally at grass, together with the natural grass-land of the valleys, inclosed or open; these occupations are titheable, and the present rents from 10*s.* to 20*s.* per acre. In Rothwell, a farm of what is called four yard lands or about one twentieth part of the parish, has about one hundred and twenty acres of open land, and thirty acres inclosed, five horses, eighteen head of cattle, of which one-half may be milkers, and ninety-six sheep, twenty-four being attached to each yard land.

"2. *Modern inclosures,* in alternate tillage and pasture. The pastures generally stocked, principally with sheep, of which there are farms of various sizes, with sometimes old pasture land attached, and employed in the feeding of cattle.

"3. *Enclosed land,* in alternate tillage and pasture, with pasture land attached thereto, the pasture land generally applied to

supporting dairy cows. Of these there are farms of various sizes, on which from seven, eight, and ten, to twenty, forty, and even sixty dairy cows are kept; the principal object being generally butter for the London market. The inclosed land of this county is generally tithe free. Rent of farms, at present, 1806, from 20*s.* to 30*s.* per acre; but near towns the land lets much higher.

"4. The *ancient inclosed land,* generally at grass, and applied to feeding sheep and oxen, or part mown for hay. In some parishes of this class, little or no grain is grown; the rent generally from 25*s.* to 30*s.* per acre, These farms are the largest occupations in the county; I viewed one of six or seven hundred acres, and heard of much larger; but a considerable proportion of this land, of uncouth appearance, and overrun with ant-hills, is, probably, at a rent of not more than 20*s.* per acre,"

The surface of this county is peculiarly advantageous for cultivation, having neither dreary wastes nor rugged mountains; but is every where sufficiently regular for all the purposes of husbandry and tillage. Every hill is cultivated, or may be kept in a profitable state of pasturage, and every inequality in the surface contributes to its ornament and beauty. The upper and middle parts of the county are abundantly covered with extensive woods, which are intersected wsth numerous vistas and lawns.

Mr. Donaldson, in his "General view" states, that there are 316 parishes in this county, 227 of which are in a state of inclosure, and 89 in open field; besides which, there are many thousand acres of woodlands, and a large tract of rich valuable land, called the Great Peterborough Fen, in a state of commonage; so that supposing the inclosed part of the county at present under the most approved modes of management, there is above one-third of the whole, by no means in the best state of cultivation of which it is susceptible. Without enumerating the various small commons, or the nature and extent of the common rights of pasturage, it may be sufficient to mention particularly

The Great Peterborough Fen, a tract of fine level land, containing between six and seven thousand acres, of a soil, equal perhaps to any in the kingdom, and capable of the highest cultivation. It is situated between Peterborough and Crowland, towards the north-eastern angle of the county, and is subject to the depasturage of the cattle, horses, and sheep of thirty-two parishes or townships, which comprise what is commonly called the Soke of Peterborough. The right of commonage is considered to be scarcely of any value: but if this portion of land was converted into private property, and divided into farms of a proper size, advantages, both of a public and private nature, must necessarily be the result.

Woodlands. The extensive tracts of woodland in this county consist either of forests, chases, or purlieu woods. Of the *forests,* the principal is that of *Rockingham,* which is situated in the northern part of the county, and extends for nearly twenty miles in one direction The two large forests of Whittlewood and Salcey, lie towards the southern border of the county. There are two *chases;* Geddington and Yardly: the former was once a part of Rockingham forest; but permission was given by the crown, many years since, to the ancestors of the Montague family to disforest it, and convert it into a chase. Yardly chase was once a part of Salcey forest, but has also been disforested. *Purlieu woods,* are those which are situated in the vicinity of the forests, and which at one time formed a part of them; but the respective owners having at some former periods obtained grants from the Crown to disforest them, and to consider them as their own private property, they are not now subject to any of the regulations of forest woods. The purlieu woods are extensive and numerous in this county, particularly towards the southern side, and upon the borders of Rockingham forest: and besides these, there are several small tracts of woodland very advantageously situated in various parts of the county. The underwood in the forests and chases, principally consists of black and white thorn, ash, sallow, maple, and a small proportion of hazle. As the history, extent, rights and peculiarities

rities of the forests, constitute a natural feature in the topographical annals of this county, it will be requisite to detail them more fully. In the History of Hampshire, vol. V. of this work, will be found an account of officers, and various other particulars respecting the royal forests.

The Forest of Salcey, is situated near the south-eastern border of the county, where it joins Buckinghamshire. From a perambulation, made in the time of King Edward the First, it appears that the limits had been extended by King John; but that the woods and lawns afforested by that king, were disafforested by Edward, according to the tenor of the *Charta de Foresta*, and in consequence of a grant of a fifteenth part of the moveables of all his subjects. But though the Forest was, by this solemn proceeding, brought back to its ancient bounds, and though the limits thus established, were followed and confirmed by usage, for more than three hundred years, an attempt was made by Charles the First, again to enlarge the Forest, and with that view, in the year 1639, a new perambulation was made, by which a considerable extent of country was added to it, and subjected to the burthen of the Forest Laws; but this oppressive measure, which was extended also to several other forests, was rendered ineffectual by an Act of Parliament, in 1641, which confined all the Royal Forests to their reputed limits in the twentieth year of the preceding reign.

The lands, now considered as forest, and in which the crown is possessed of the timber and other valuable rights, extend in length, about two miles and a half, and in breadth nearly one mile and a half, and contain 1847 acres, 23 poles, statute measure, consisting of the following particulars:

| Acres | R. | P. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1121. | 3. | 24. | are divided into 24 coppices covered with timber and underwood. |
| 470. | 3. | 37. | are open plains and ridings, never inclosed. |
| 74. | 2. | 8. | are inclosed meadow and pasture lands, occupied by the Warden and Keepers, with their respective lodges. |
| 179. | 2. | 34. | are inclosed lawns, appropriated to the use of the deer, and the cattle of the Warden and Keepers. |

The

The whole is divided into four walks, viz. *Hanslop, Piddington, Hartwell,* and the *Deputy Ranger's walk.* The first is partly in Hanslop parish, and partly extra-parochial; the second, in the parish of Piddington; the third, in the parishes of Hartwell, Ashton, Piddington, and part extra-parochial; the fourth, in the parish of Piddington, and partly extra-parochial.

By the custom of this forest, the under-wood of the several coppices, is cut in rotation, at twenty-one years' growth; and after each cutting, the coppices are inclosed, so as to exclude the commonable cattle, of the forest, for nine years, but the deer are admitted into them two years sooner, by means of creeps and deer leaps, made in the fences. At the end of nine years, they are again thrown open, and so continue for the remaining twelve years until the period of cutting the under-wood returns.

The owners or occupiers of lands in the parishes of Hartwell Ashton, Quinton, Piddington, and Hackleton, in Northamptonshire, and Hanslop, in the county of Bucks, claim a right of common of pasture, in the forest, from Old May-day to Martinmas, (23d of Nov,) for as many horses and cows, as they can keep in winter, on their lands, to which the right is appendant.

The Forest of Salcey, was made part of the honour of Grafton, by Act of Parliament, 33. Henry VIII. and during the time that the coppices continued in the actual possession of the crown, the underwood was cut and sold, from time to time, by the regular Woodward, by virtue of warrants, from the Lord Treasurer or Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the profits accounted for to the king's use.

In the 17th year of Charles the Second, this forest together with that of Whittlewood, were settled on Queen Catharine, for her life, as part of her jointure, reserving all the timber trees and saplings for the use of the crown. And in the twenty-fifth year of that king, the several coppices, woods, under-woods, and woodlands in both these forests, were granted to Henry, Earl of Arlington, for the term of his life, after the decease of the Queen, and after his death, to Henry, Earl of Euston, (afterwards Duke of Grafton) Charles, Earl of Southampton, and George Lord Fitz-

roy, otherwise Lord George Palmer, sons of Charles the Second, and their respective heirs male, for ever. By virtue of this grant, which commenced on the death of the Queen Dowager, 31st of December, 1705, the family of Grafton became entitled to, and now possess the underwood in the several coppices, which, after each cutting, are enclosed with a strong hedge and ditch, at the expence of the Duke of Grafton, except in those parts where the fences of the coppices form part of the outer boundary of the forest, the greater part of which, is fenced by the proprietors of the adjacent lands, and the residue with posts and rails, at the expence of the crown. The right to the underwood, is the only property, which the family of Grafton, appear to have in Salcey Forest.

This forest is under the government of the following officers, viz. a Warden, or Master Forester; Lieutenant, or Deputy Warden; two Verderers; a Woodward; three Yeomen-keepers of the several walks of Hanslop, Piddington, and Hartwell; one Page Keeper; and the Surveyor General of the woods and forests.

The Warden, in right of this office, possesses the *Great Lodge*, which is a well built brick house, having offices, with gardens, and pleasure grounds attached to it.

The number of deer kept in this forest, is about one thousand, of all sorts; and the number killed annually, is about twenty-eight brace of bucks, and twenty-four of does; of which four bucks, and four does, are supplied for the use of his Majesty's household, in pursuance of warrants, from the Board of Green Cloth; and six bucks and six does, (more or less, as the forest is able to supply,) are killed, under warrants from the Cofferer's Office, or Clerk of the Venison warrants, for the use of the public offices, and for persons accustomed to have venison from the royal forests. Besides these, the Verderers of the forest, the Chief Justice of Eyre, and his Secretary, and the Surveyor General of the woods, have each a fee buck, and doe, yearly; the Deputy Warden, six bucks and does; and each of the three Yeo-

Yeomen Keepers, one brace of bucks, and one of does. The residue are disposed of by the Warden.

The *Verderers* in this, as in all forests, are chosen by the freeholders of the county. Their office is judicial, to preside at the forest courts, and to take cognizance of all trespasses, relative to vert and venison: but no courts are now held for this forest.

By a survey of the timber, taken in the year 1608, it appears that there were then growing in this forest, 15,274 timber trees, of oak, then valued at 11,951*l.* besides 440 decaying trees, valued at 140*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The number of loads, of timber, is not mentioned in this survey; but as we find, from other authentic documents, of the same period, that the general price of oak timber was then about ten shillings per load, girt measure, the 15,274 oak trees, which were valued at near 16*s.* each, must have contained, one with another, not less than a load and a half of timber, or about 22,911 loads, girt measure, which is equal to 34,366, square measure.

On a survey, taken in 1783, there were reported to be then in this forest, only 2,918 oak trees, fit for the navy, (including all trees, down to thirty feet of timber,) containing by computation, 3,745 loads of timber, square measure; and only 194 scrubbed, doatard, or defective trees, of above thirty feet each, besides browze trees, of which there were 8,266 oak trees, containing by computation, 7,338 loads of timber, square measure, and 8,914 browse ashes; so that the timber, fit for the navy, according to this survey, was little more than one-tenth part of the quantity fit for naval use, growing in this forest, in 1608.

The whole produce, of the timber and wood, felled and sold, in this forest, for the use of the crown, from the death of the Queen Dowager, to the end of the year, 1786, amounts to the sum of 6,447*l.* 3*s.* 2¼*d.* which falls short 441*l.* 8*s.* 0¼*d.* of the fees, poundage, and other disbursements attendant thereon. But there is to be taken into this account, the timber supplied for the use of the navy, from 1781, to 1786, (the only part of the above period, in which naval timber was felled,) of which the net produce was 2,111*l.* 15*s.* 2*d*, from which the said deficiency,

441*l*

441*l.* 18*s.* 0½*d.* being deducted, the net produce of the wood and timber, from 1705 to 1786, was 2,066*l.* 17*s.* 1½*d* against which is to be set the Warden's and Woodward's salary, amounting in that period to 364*5l.* so that the expences on this forest, from 1705, to 1786, have exceeded the whole produce of the wood sales and naval timber, by the sum of 1,578l. 2*s.* 10½*d.*

That so valuable a property as the timber, in a forest, of above 1,800 acres extent, fully planted, and excellent in soil, should be so unproductive, and yet the stock remaining, so comparatively inconsiderable, can only be imputed to the ruinous effects of a mixture of opposite interests, in the same property, and of the system of management of the royal forests, which has prevailed for many years past. This system, like that of the generality of public offices, is not only destructive of public property, but peculiarly injurious to all classes of the community, excepting the persons, who are immediately profiting by peculation, and converting that to self-aggrandisement, which justly belongs to the country. This practice has prevailed from time immemorial, and continues its ruinous operation, in spite of the remonstrances of commissioners, and the general voice of complaint. Its effects, in forests, particularly, arise from the destruction of young timber, by lopping them for browse wood, whereby the officers are enriched, at the expence of the public purse. "The office," report the commissioners, "of Surveyor of the Woods, as at present constituted, the nature of its perquisites, and the mode of executing the business of that department, are additional causes of waste and expence. The poundage of five per cent. on all monies, coming to the hands of the Surveyor-general, and another poundage of five per cent. on the expenditure of those monies, make it the interest of that officer, to fell the timber, and to promote and enhance the expence of repairs and works, in the forests. The whole of the actual business in the forests, being transacted by deputies, and those deputies not acting upon oath; the sales of the wood and timber, being wholly under their direction, without any adequate check or controul; and those deputies, in many instances, (as appear by

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our former reports) the buyers of the wood and timber, sold by themselves; the works and repairs, being either performed by them, or by workmen of their appointment, upon estimates of their own forming; and neither those estimates, made on oath, nor the works afterwards surveyed, or the accounts sworn to, by those who transact the business, though the Surveyor General himself is accountable on oath, must leave the whole entirely dependent on the personal integrity of an individual, who is neither from rank or situation, or the fair emoluments of office, placed above the temptation of ordinary corruption; and yet this officer is the only one who has any special charge of the growing timber in the forests." These are serious charges, and call loudly for redress. The Report further states, that the stools or roots of the trees felled, which unquestionably belong to the crown, are here taken by the Keepers. In a large fall of timber, this article might be worth attention: but the Deputy Surveyor of this forest, whose duty it is to attend to the interest of the Crown there, is also one of the Keepers of Whittlewood Forest, and therefore has a double charge, and the opportunity of making double profits.

The soil of this forest appears to be peculiarly adapted to the growth of large timber; as a proof of which, may be mentioned, that there is *one ancient oak tree*, seventeen yards in circumference; and the trees in general are larger and longer than those in the neighbouring Forest of Whittlewood; but the under-wood here is of much less value, the land being cold and wet, and lying very flat. The succession of young timber in this forest is, comparatively, very small, chiefly owing to the great quantity of browse trees, which, in 1783 were no less than 17,580, of oak and ash, being more than double the number of all the other trees in the forest, down to saplings and storers of two feet each.

The Forest of Whittlewood, though principally belonging to the County of Northampton, extends into the adjoining Counties of Oxford and Buckingham, and has been formerly of very considerable extent. Many of the facts already stated, res-

respecting the Forest of Salcey, are equally applicable to this of Whittlewood, and therefore it will be unnecessary to repeat them.

This Forest, as well as that of Salcey, is part of the Honour of Grafton: a perambulation made in the reign of Edward the First, describes separately the parts lying within the three counties above named: the bounds of the Forest, and the operation of the forest laws were greatly extended 15 Charles I.; but an act of Parliament in the next year restored the ancient limits as prescribed by the perambulation of Edward the First, and confirmed 20 James I. But a part only of the lands within those limits seems now to be considered as forest. That part contains 5,424 acres 1 rood 11 poles, and is almost entirely encompassed with a ring mound, which has been its boundary beyond the memory of the oldest man. The rest of the land, within the ancient perambulation, but without that mound, consists, as in Salcey, of many estates belonging to several proprietors, who are, some wholly, some partially, exempted from forest laws. The part within the mound consists of the following particulars.

| Acres. | R. | P. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3395 | 0 | 23 | are divided into 69 coppices covered with timber and underwood. |
| 887 | 0 | 34 | are open plains and ridings never inclosed. |
| 312 | 2 | 3 | are inclosed meadow and pasture lands, appropriated to the use of the Lord Warden, Lieutenant and Keepers. |
| 329 | 1 | 31 | are inclosed lawns, appropriated to the use of the deer, and the cattle of the Warden and Lieutenant. |

The whole is divided into five walks, viz. Hazleborough, Sholbrook, Wakefield, Hanger, and Shrobb: the first situated in the parishes of Whitfield and Silverstone; the second in that of Whittlebury; the third in the parishes of Whittlebury, Pottersbury, Passenham, Denshanger, and Lillingston Dayrell; the fourth and fifth in the parish of Passenham.

The coppices in this forest, like those in Salcey, are cut in rotation at twenty-one years growth; after each cutting, they are

are inclosed for nine years, and then thrown open to the deer and cattle for the remaining twelve years; excepting those in Shrobb Walk, which is constantly inclosed, the Walk not being subject to any right of common. The wood, underwood, and timber, in seven coppices, being that part of Hazleborough Walk which lies in Silverstone parish, now belong to Earl Bathurst; the crown having no other right, than that of herbage and cover for the deer. The remaining sixty-two coppices belonged to, and were in the actual possession of, the crown till 17 Charles II. when this forest and that of Salcey, were settled on Queen Catherine for life, as part of her jointure. In the twenty-fifth of the same reign, the coppices in both forests were granted to Lord Arlington for his life, (after the Queen's death,) with remainder to the Duke of Grafton, and other sons of the King, as has been noticed respecting Salcey Forest.

Fifteen parishes enjoy, under certain limitations, the privilege of common pasture in the forest of Whittlewood: of these, six, called In-parishes, send their cattle into the forest from March 25 to November 1; and nine, called Off or Out-parishes, turn in their cattle from April 23 to September 25. The quantity of land subject to rights of common is 4,486 acres, 3 roods, 2 poles, being the whole of what is now deemed forest land, excepting Shrobb Walk, the lawns, and other inclosed lands.

This forest is under the superintendance and care of---A Lord Warden or Master Forester---Lieutenant or Deputy Warden---Two Verderers---Woodward---Purlieu Ranger---Five Keepers, and Six Page-Keepers---besides the Surveyor-General of the Woods and Forests.

By grant of 11 Anne, the Duke of Grafton holds the office of Lord Warden or Master Forester, which gives him the possession of the chief lodge, called *Wakefield-Lodge*, with the gardens, pleasure grounds, and inclosed meadow lands, containing together nearly 117 acres, with the pasturage for cattle in common with the deer, in an inclosed lawn, called Wakefield Lawn, containing upwards of 245 acres. His grace has also, as

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Hereditary Keeper, the custody and management of the deer: no more, however, seems to have been required from his family, since the date of the patent, than to answer certain warrants for the supply of his Majesty's household, and the public offices, or others accustomed to have venison from the royal forests. The residue appears to have been left to the disposal of the Lord Warden.

The number of deer at present kept within the forest, is computed to be about 1800 of all sorts; and the number killed, one year with another, is about 138 bucks and 100 does.

In the survey made in the year 1608, Whittlewood Forest is stated to contain 51,046 timber trees of oak, then valued at 25,755*l.*, and 360 decaying trees valued at 123*l.* 6*s.* 8*d*: the quantity of timber is not mentioned, but, according to the computation noticed in Salcey Forest, it must have been from 40 to 50,000 loads girt measure, or from 60 to 75,000 loads square measure.

From the Treasury warrants and the accounts of the Surveyors-General, it appears that the whole produce of the timber felled in this forest, from the death of the Queen Dowager in 1705, to the end of the year 1786, including 480 loads taken for works at Blenheim, but excluding what has been felled for the navy, amounts to 37,026*l.* 15*s.* 6*d*,---the payments for repairs, fees, poundage, and other attendant disbursements, in that period, are 38,379*l.* 16*s.* 10½*d*, exceeding the produce by 1353*l.* 1*s.* 4½*d*. The timber felled for the navy from 1772 (the earliest fall on that account) to 1786, netted 7648*l.* 9*s.* 1*d*: and of that supplied for the same purpose from 1786 to 1790, the net produce is 6053*l.* 10*s.* 2*d*.---making together 13,701*l.* 19*s.* 3*d*., whence the deficit of the crown sales, 1353*l.* being deducted, the remainder 12,348*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d*. shows the clear produce to the crown since the forest has been in the possession of the Grafton family, being 85 years, averaging about 145*l.* 5*s.* 7*d*. per annum.

By the survey taken in 1783, there appeared to be growing in this forest 5211 timber trees fit for the navy, containing 7230 loads of timber square measure; and 402 scrubbed, dotard, and decayed trees, containing 569 loads. The same survey states

that there were 18,617 trees in the forest constantly lopped for browse for the deer, viz. 6335 oak trees, computed to contain 8,907 loads of timber square measure, (being more than a load and quarter each on an average,) and 12,282 ash trees, containing 3512 loads; so that the number and contents of the browsed oaks was greater than of the oak trees reported to be fit for the navy, of which the number in the coppices was not quite three trees to every two acres of land. Between the years 1772 and 1783 there had been felled for the navy 1461 trees, producing 1335 loads; if these be added to the trees of 30 feet and upwards, growing in the coppices at the time of the survey, the number would still be less than two trees to an acre; and if the browse oaks be taken into the computation, the whole number of the trees of thirty feet and upwards, would be little more than three trees to an acre.

The Forest of Rockingham is situated in the northern part of the county, and is esteemed to have been anciently one of the largest forests in the kingdom. In a perambulation dated 14th of Edward I. it is described as extending from Northampton to Stamford, being about 30 miles in length; and from the river Nen, on the south, to those of the Welland and Maidwell, on the north-west; being a medium breadth of nearly 8 miles. This extent was limitted soon after the accession of Henry the Second; but the bounds was particularly specified and settled in the 17th of Charles I. The forest consists of three separate districts, called the Bailiwicks of Rockingham, Brigstock, and Clive or Cliffe, situated at the distance of two or four miles from each other; each of which is divided into several walks, viz. Rockingham into---the Lawn of Benefield, the West Bailiwick, or West Walk, Gretton Woods and little Weldon Woods, Weedhaw and Thornhaw, and Corby Woods;---Brigstock into Geddington Woods, and Farming Woods;---and Cliffe into Westhay, Moorhay, and Sulehay, Farms, and Shortwood. These three Bailiwicks were formerly under the superintendance of one Warden, or Master Forester, of the whole forest; which office was granted in the 1st of James I. to Thomas Lord Burleigh for three lives.

lives. Charles the First divided or rather abolished that office, and constituted three Master Foresters of separate districts. The Master Forestership of Rockingham-Bailiwick, with Gedington Woods, was granted in the 4th of Charles I. to Edward Lord Montague for three lives; but no subsequent grant of it appears: that of Cliffe-Bailiwick was granted in the 5th of Charles the First, to trustees for Mildmay, Earl of Westmorland, for three lives, and is now held by the present Earl of Westmorland on the same tenure: and that of Farming-Woods, the patent for which was not sued out in that reign, was granted in the 27th of the next, to Sir John Robinson, for three lives, and is now held by the Earl of Upper Ossory. The other officers of this forest, in the reigns of James the First and Charles the First, besides the Warden, were a Lieutenant, four Verderers, a Ranger of the Forest, and under Ranger of each Bailiwick, a Bow Bearer, Master Keepers, and under Keepers of the respective walks, and twelve Regarders for each Bailiwick, besides Woodwards and under Woodwards. One court of Swanimote was held for the two Bailiwicks of Rockingham and Brigstock, and another for the Bailiwick of Cliffe. But since the abolition of the office of Warden, and the discontinuance of the forest courts, the forest has been principally under the care of the hereditary keepers; and the three Bailiwicks have been wholly unconnected in respect to their government or management. The election of Verderers is still continued, though the office is now little more than nominal.

The *Bailiwick of Rockingham* comprises divers extensive woods in the parishes of Cottingham, Middleton, Great and Little Oakley, Gretton, Little Weldon, and Corby, reputed to contain about 3500 acres; a large open plain called Rockinghamshire, and several smaller plains, containing together about 560 acres, and an inclosed lawn, called Benefield Lawn, containing about 384 acres. The woods and plains within this Bailiwick belong to the Earls of Harcourt and Cardigan, Lord Sondes, George Finch Hatton, Esq., and other proprietors; and are subject to the feed of the deer, and commonable to the adjacent towns and parishes. The Lawn of Benefield is a tract of pasture

land in the nature of a park, inclosed and set apart for the feeding of the deer, and not subject to any right of common. This lawn, and the keeperships of the several walks, are held by Mr, Hatton, by virtue of a grant in fee to Sir Christopher Hatton, in the 25th year of Queen Elizabeth.

The number of deer supplied from this Bailiwick, is, for the use of the crown, four brace and half of bucks, and the same number of does, and for the forest officers eleven brace of each, in the whole fifteen brace and half of each.

The *Bailiwick of Brigstock*, which is the least of the three divisions, comprehends that part of the town and fields of Geddington, which lie to the north of the river Ise; certain woods called Geddington Woods, containing about 700 acres; the town and part of the fields of Brigstock; the woods called Farming Woods, containing also about 700 acres; and a lodge called Farming Woods Lodge, with an inclosed lawn adjacent to it, said to contain about 200 acres. The number of deer supplied from this Bailiwick is 34 bucks and as many does.

The *Bailiwick of Cliffe* is the largest division of the forest, and comprehends four extensive tracts of wood-land, namely, Westhay Woods belonging to the Earl of Exeter; Moorhay Woods belonging to the Earl of Westmorland; Earl's Woods, in Moorhay Walk, the property of the reverend Abraham Blackhorne and others; and Sulehay Woods, belonging also to the Earl of Westmorland. Those woods, with the open plains and wastes adjoining, and two inclosed lawns, called Moorhay Lawn and Sulehay Lawn, held by Lord Westmorland, in right of the keepership of those walks, contain together about 4,582 acres. The town and fields of King's Cliffe, except Cliffe Park, and parts of the towns and fields of Duddington, Apethorpe, Newton, Nassington, and Yarwell, are also comprised within the limits of this bailiwick; but the woods and lands above-mentioned are the parts which are chiefly subject to the haunt and feed of the deer.*

CANALS,

* For further particulars respecting the forests, purlieu-woods, chases, &c. with some judicious strictures on their general injurious system of management, the reader is referred to Pitt's "General View of the Agriculture," &c.

CANALS, &c.---The first artificial canal, that was made to render any benefit to this county, was the *Oxford,* which passes through the parishes of Aynho, Boddington, Braunston, and Barby, all on the western verge of the shire. At Braunston it joins the *Grand Junction Canal,* which crosses the western side of this county. This navigable cut was planned for the purpose of opening a water communication between the river Thames, and the principal inland canals of the kingdom. It was intended for vessels of 60 tons burthen. Near its junction with the Oxford, are two *reservoirs,* one of about 30 acres area, and the other of nearly 130 acres. In the course of the first mile from Braunston, the level of water is raised 37 feet by lockage. It is then continued upon that level about four miles and a half, one mile of which is an excavation, or tunnel, through a hill. This is called the *Braunston Tunnel;* the water is afterwards lowered by lockage 172 feet to the level of the Ouse; in its course passing by Wedon; after crossing beneath the great London road it is carried over a valley by an embankment of earth, nearly half a mile in length, and about 30 feet high. This embankment passing close to Wedon church-yard, the top water level is above the height of the body of the church, and nearly upon a level with the bells. Two public highways for carriages, and one small river pass under the canal, through the base of this embankment; the course of the cut is then continued north-easterly, recrossing the London road, and afterwards taking an eastern direction, passes Lower Heyford, Bugbrook, and Gayton, to Blisworth; this is eighteen miles from Braunston, and so far is the canal navigable at this end. At Blisworth are erected extensive wharfage and warehouses for goods, two new Inns on the banks of the canal, and other works, adapted to a growing place of trade. Near this place a *Railway* branches off to Northampton, the river, at which town, is 120 feet beneath the level of the canal at Blisworth. From this place the line of the cut is through a *tunnel,* at *plane woods,* which was a work of considerable difficulty, from the quality of the substratum and quantity of springs. The difficulties, however, were surmounted in 1806; and the passage thus formed

through the hill, according to Mr. Pitt's opinion, is "a very masterly and surprising work of art." The course is next by Stoke-Bruern, Grafton-regis, and Cosgrove, where it enters Buckinghamshire. At Grafton the canal crosses the Tow-river, and near Cosgrove it crosses the Ouse, and is raised by an embankment for a considerable distance, and to a great height above the meadows.

Another *canal* called the *Union* has been projected and planned to extend from Market Harborough to Northampton; but the opposition of the proprietors of the Grand Junction, has hitherto counteracted the execution of these plans. It is now proposed to alter its course, and make the line shorter, by joining the Grand Junction at Long-Buckby. Proposals have recently been issued for making another *canal* from Harborough to Stamford, to follow the course of the river Welland. This plan is, at present, in its infancy.

Rivers.---Northamptonshire may justly boast, and we believe *exclusively*, that in the important article of water it is entirely and completely independent; for of the six rivers which flow through, or intersect it, every one originates within its boundaries, and not a single brook, however insignificant, runs into it from any other district; whilst there is not a county bordering upon it, that is not, in some degree, supplied from its various and ample aquatic stores.

Morton remarks as "a natural and unwrested observation, that the rivers of Northamptonshire are so equally and duly ranged and distributed, as if they ran in channels contrived and cut by art and labour, to convey a competent share of water into every part;" and after particularising their various courses, adds "so that there is no town in the county five miles distant from one or other of the above-mentioned rivers or rivulets."

The Nen or *Nyne*, though in point of intrinsic celebrity yielding the palm to the Ouse and Avon, yet continuing longest in, and being most beneficial to, the county, has the fairest claim to priority of notice. The several villages of Naseby, Draughton, West Haddon, Fawsley, and Staverton, contend for the honor of its source; but it is now pretty generally admitted that

the northern branch springs from Chapel Well at Naseby, and the western from Hartwell near Staverton, and both uniting at Northampton, form no inconsiderable river, which pursues its irriguous windings through a range of richly fertile meadows, and receiving all along the homage of tributary streams, till it reaches Peterborough, whence it runs by Wisbeach to Lynn, where it is absorbed in the German Ocean.

It was navigable formerly no higher than Peterborough: after some ineffectual attempts to extend the navigation, particularly by Sir William Fleetwood in 1706, it was at length accomplished, and boats laden with coal came up, by Oundle, Thrapstone, Higham-Ferrers, and Wellingborough, to *Northampton,* in August 1762. The navigation of this river is, however, still very defective and incomplete. It is capable of being rendered highly serviceable to the towns on its banks. "At the wharf," in Northampton, observes Mr. Pitt, "not a single vessel, loading or unloading, is to be seen; a crane stands solitary, and not the least stir of business; a small deposit of coals, (from the rail road course,) and a few deals, comprize all the visible articles of commerce."

The Welland, in local importance, ranks the second in this county, and takes its rise near the vicarage house at Sibbertoft, whence, having measured the short space of four miles, it reaches the skirts of the county, which adopts its devious wanderings as the line of boundary, during a lengthened course of nearly fifty miles, by Harborough, Rockingham, and Stamford, where it becomes navigable, through Deeping to Crowland, when it enters Lincolnshire, and at length falls into the Foss-dyke Wash, near Boston.

Northamptonshire derives comparatively but little benefit from the four other rivers to which it gives rise, though two of them, the Ouse and the Avon, stand in the first class of British rivers; but they are both mere rivulets when they first issue from the earth, and soon desert their *native* district.

The Ouse, (according to Morton) originates at Ouse-well, in the parish of Farthingho, near Brackley, and speedily entering Buckinghamshire, re-visits its parent county near Old Stratford.

The Avon, or lessor *Avon*, commences its course at Avon-well near Naseby, and flows in a westernly direction into Warwickshire.

The *Leam*, springing from the village of Hellidon, is immediately joined by other rills from Catesby and Staverton, with which it hastens into Warwickshire; and having named the two villages of Leamington, meets the lesser *Avon*, into which it falls, and the junction forms the *celebrated Avon*, which, passing Warwick, intersects the county, and meandering through Worcestershire, ultimately loses itself in the Severn.

The *Charwell*, derives its name from a little spring called *Charwell* near Charwelton. After gliding in silent obscurity by Banbury, finishes its career at the city of Oxford, where it resigns its identity to the Thames, and is discharged, with it, into the Eastern Ocean.

Roads, Bridges, &c.---The great mail roads through this county, of which there are four, are mostly level, wide, and good; and a few of the collateral turnpike roads are generally kept in a good state; but the cross, or *parish roads*, are shamefully neglected. These are mostly very narrow, and the farmers seem careless in performing the statute duty of repairs, or wholly desert them. Each tenant who occupies a farm of 50*l.* is bound to give six days of labour, with a cart and two men every year; but if the farmer be remiss in this duty, it seems that those empowered to interfere are equally negligent, and the public traveller is thereby often put to great inconvenience, and sometimes danger. Mr. Pitt, and Mr. Knight, in the same work, justly reprove this derilection of public and private duty. The *county bridges* are numerous, and generally in good condition: Mr. Pitt remarks that "there are few districts which can boast of a greater number of handsome, well built, stone bridges; every brook and rivulet is made passable by means of a stone arch; and the bridges on the larger rivers do credit to the public spirit of the inhabitants."

Manufactures.---Though Northamptonshire cannot be called a manufacturing district, yet a large portion of its population is

is engaged in, and supported by, some species of handicraft business. The chief of these consist in making shoes, lace, and woollen stuffs. In the town of Northampton, and in several of the neighbouring towns and villages, the first branch of these is carried on to a very considerable extent. While the men are engaged in making the shoes, many women and girls are employed in closing, binding, and lining them. Towcester is considered the principal seat or centre of the *lace-making* business: and the woollen manufactures are chiefly at Kettering; and towards the northern side of the county. At Daventry, a great number of *whips* are made: and at the same town is a large manufactory for *silk hose.*

Ancient Architecture, Sepulchral Monuments, &c.—The county of Northampton contains many interesting specimens of both these classes of antiquities: but as the contracted nature of this work, precludes a particular account of them, we must content ourselves by briefly pointing out a few of the most interesting and curious in each class. In that of *ancient architecture, Peterborough Cathedral,* and the contiguous buildings display some fine and varied examples, from the early Norman to the latest English. The *churches* of *Castor, Barnack, Earls-Barton, St. Peters,* and *St. Sepulchres* at Northampton, *Barnwell, Twywell* and *Spritton,* are all distinguished by semi-circular arches, short columns, and the corresponding mouldings of zigzag, billetted, &c. In some of these are also ancient piscinas, fonts, stone stalls, &c. The *towers* of Castor, Earls Barton, Barnack, and St. Peters, Northampton, are distinguished by various arcades, columns, and other ornaments of the early Norman style. In the class of *large churches,* displaying fine specimens of enriched and florid architecture, those of the following parishes will be found to be interesting: *Fotheringhay,* a collegiate church, has a lofty tower, flying buttresses, crocketed pinnacles, and windows with mullions and tracery. That at *Oundle* is large, with a tower and crocketed spire, also spacious windows of varied and enriched tracery. The churches of

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*Lufwick, Kettering, Higham-Ferrars, Wellingborough,* and *Finedon,* are all large structures, and display in their towers, spires, windows, doors, &c. various specimens of the elaborate architecture of the middle ages. Those of *Braunston, Whiston, Raunds, Brington,* and *Kings-Sutton,* present some beautiful, or curious architectural features: and the *Chapel* at *Glynton,* Moreton says, is "one of the finest in England." The *Crosses* at *Geddington,* and near Northampton, erected by King Edward the First, to the memory of his Queen, Eleanor, are well known specimens of beautiful and elegant architecture.

In the class of *ancient mansions,* this county presents a few interesting examples. The houses of *Burleigh, Kirby, Castle-Ashby, Fawsley, Rushton,* and *Drayton,* are large, and afford to the architectural antiquary, some admirable objects of study and contemplation; as calculated to shew the taste and fashion of the ages when they were respectively erected. Mr. Gough has described one at Billing, as peculiarly curious: but this has been nearly, or wholly destroyed, since that learned topographer wrote his account in the Archologia.

*Fonts.*---Though we are not enabled to point out many curious, or fine specimens of this class of antiquities, yet those at the following churches, will be found worthy of notice. At *Hardwick,* near Welingborough, is one of a very early date: that at *Warnford* is said to be formed of *lead;* and few are to be found of this kind: at *Barnack, St. Peters* in Northampton, *Castor, Pauls-perry,* and *Greens-Norton,* are ancient specimens.

In Sepulchral Monuments, of marble, brass, &c. the county of Northampton, perhaps, may be said to excel any other part of the kingdom of equal extent, excepting London. This is to be accounted for from the number of noble families that have been settled here from a remote period. In *Warkton Church* are three large, splendid monuments, with statues, &c. to the *Montague Family*; and in *Weekly Church* are two or three altar tombs, with effigies, &c. to some older branches of the same family. At *Brington* are several costly tombs, in memory of the *Spencers* of Althorpe. The *Church* of *Stowe* is noted for a very

very interesting altar-monument, with a recumbent figure, most likely a portrait, by N. Stone, of *Elizabeth Latimer*, wife, first to Sir John Danvers, and secondly to Sir Edmund Carey. In the same building is a cenotaph, consisting of a large cumbrous mass of English marble, with upright statues, to the memory of the benevolent *Dr. Thomas Turner*, who was buried at Corpus Christi-College, Oxford. The church at *Easton-Neston* is rendered memorable by several sepulchral memorials to the *Fermors*, Earls of Pomfret. In *Stamford Baron* Church, are some gorgeous monuments to the *Cecils* of Burleigh. The *Cathedral Church* of *Peterborough* contains some sepulchral mementos, but few of these are of distinguished importance. The persecuted *Mary Queen of Scots*, is recorded by a cenotaph: *Catharine of Arragon*, first wife to King Henry the Eighth, was also interred here.

In the church at *Rockingham*, the *Watsons*, now *Baron Sondes*, have usually been interred; and some monuments have been raised to their memories. *Lufwick Church* is not more eminent for its architecture, than for the monuments that adorn the interior: for here are several to the different families of *Stafford*, *Vere*, *Mordaunt*, *Green*, &c. It contains also some fine specimens of *stained glass*. In *Castle-Ashby* Church are some old brasses, and an ancient tomb with an armed effigy of a Knight.

The church at *Easton Maudit* contains three or four monuments with statues, canopies, &c. to the *Yelvertons*. In *Horton Church* is a curious tomb to *William Lord Parr*, uncle to Catherine: also brasses to *Roger Salusbury*, and his two wives. *Hardingstone Church* has two old tombs, and a fine monument by Rysbrack. At *Fawsley* are several mural slabs, brasses, and finely sculptured monuments to different persons of the Knightley family. In *Stean Church* a branch of the *Crewe* family of Cheshire, was formerly interred, and several tombs are preserved to record the names of different persons. *Marham-Church* contains some monumental memorials to the *Fitzwilliams* of Milton.

Besides the above there are many other churches in the coun-

county, which will be found to interest the antiquary by their ancient monuments. Some of these will be specified in the subsequent pages.

The following particulars respecting the POOR, &c. are derived from the reports laid before Parliament, and printed in 1804, for the use of the Members of the House of Commons. In this official document it appears, "That returns were received from three hundred and thirty-three parishes, or places, in the county of NORTHAMPTON, in the year 1803: in 1785 the returns were from three hundred and twenty-nine; and from three hundred and thirty in 1776." It is then further stated, that "Eighty-seven parishes or places maintain all, or part of, their poor *in* workhouses. The number of persons so maintained, during the year ending Easter 1803, was one thousand three hundred and thirteen; and the expence incurred therein amounted to 12,811*l.* 19*s.* 8½*d.*; being at the rate of 9*l.* per year for each person maintained in that manner. By the returns of 1776, there were then sixty-seven workhouses capable of accommodating one thousand six hundred and fifty-seven persons. The number of persons relieved *out* of workhouses was nineteen thousand two hundred and twenty one, besides one thousand five hundred and sixty-one who were not parishioners. The expence incurred in the relief of the poor *not in* workhouses amounted to 81,795*l.* 0*s.* 4½*d.* A large proportion of those who were not parishioners appear to have been vagrants; and therefore it is probable, that the relief given to this class of poor, could not exceed two shillings each, amounting to 156*l.* 2*s.* This sum being deducted from the above 81,795*l.* 0*s.* 4½*d.* leaves 81,638*l.* 18*s.* 4½*d.* being at the rate of 4*l.* 4*s.* 11½*d.* for each person relived *out* of any workhouse. The number of persons relieved *in* and *out* of workhouses was twenty thousand five hundred and thirty-four, besides those who were not parishioners. Excluding the expence supposed to be incurred in the relief of this class of poor, all other expences relative to maintenance of the poor, amounted to 97,734*l.* 18*s.* 2¼*d.* being at the rate of 4*l.* 15*s.* 2¼*d.* for each parishioner relieved. The resident population

lation of the county of Northampton, in the year 1801, appears, from the population abstract, to have been one hundred and thirty one thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven; so that the number of parishioners relieved from the poor's rate appears to be sixteen in a hundred of the resident population. The number of persons belonging to Friendly Societies appears to be six in a hundred of the resident population. The amount of the total money raised by rates appears to average 18*s.* 3¼*d.* per head, on the population. The amount of the whole expenditure on account of the poor appears to average at 14*s.* 10½*d.* per head on the population. The expenditure in suits of law, removal of paupers, and expences of overseers and other officers, according to the present abstract, amounts to 3,287*l.* 0*s.* 1½*d.* The amount of such expenditure, according to the returns of 1785, was then 1,808*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* The expenditure in purchasing materials for employing the poor, according to the present abstract, amounts to 1,344*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* The amount of such expenditure, according to the returns of 1785, was then 307*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* The poor of fourteen parishes or places in this county are farmed or maintained under contract. It is not known that any parish or place maintains its poor under a special act of Parliament. Forty-three Friendly Societies have been enrolled at the Quarter Sessions of this county, pursuant to the acts of 33 and 35 George III.

A TABLE

## A TABLE

### OF THE POPULATION, &c. OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE,

*As published by Authority of Parliament in* 1801.

| Hundreds, &c. | Houses. | Persons. | | Occupations. | | Total of Persons |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Males. | Females. | Employed in Agriculture. | Trade Manufac. | |
| Chippenwarden | 758 | 1,774 | 1,863 | 775 | 1,007 | 3,637 |
| Cleley | 1,145 | 2,761 | 2,875 | 1,292 | 1,517 | 5,636 |
| Corby | 2,054 | 4,689 | 5,026 | 1,895 | 2,264 | 9,175 |
| Fawsley | 2,205 | 5,219 | 5,399 | 2,094 | 2,274 | 10,618 |
| Green's Norton | 867 | 1,910 | 2,066 | 1,482 | 1,136 | 3,976 |
| Guilsborough | 1,747 | 4,114 | 4,328 | 1,688 | 2,775 | 8,442 |
| Hamfordshoe | 1,190 | 2,789 | 3,184 | 1,027 | 1,564 | 5,973 |
| Higham Ferrars | 1,181 | 2,774 | 3,127 | 1,078 | 1,085 | 5,901 |
| Huxloe | 2,023 | 4,557 | 4,939 | 1,678 | 2,854 | 9,496 |
| King's Sutton | 2,000 | 4,365 | 4,917 | 3,150 | 3,154 | 9,552 |
| Navisford | 398 | 973 | 1,009 | 576 | 290 | 1,982 |
| Nobottle Grove | 1,380 | 3,092 | 3,249 | 1,719 | 909 | 6,341 |
| Orlingbury | 909 | 1,969 | 2,195 | 1,416 | 785 | 4,164 |
| Polebrook | 657 | 1,577 | 1,758 | 458 | 532 | 3,335 |
| Rowell | 1,500 | 3,246 | 3,606 | 1,416 | 2,401 | 6,852 |
| Spelhoe | 935 | 2,061 | 2,178 | 912 | 371 | 4,239 |
| Towcester | 765 | 1,678 | 1,960 | 536 | 1,375 | 3,638 |
| Willybrooke | 950 | 2,254 | 2,305 | 635 | 423 | 4,559 |
| Wymersley | 1,380 | 3,128 | 3,278 | 1,901 | 921 | 6,406 |
| Town of Northampton in four parishes | 1,371 | 3,244 | 3,776 | 24 | 2,496 | 7,020 |
| City of Peterborough, | 734 | 1,571 | 1,878 | 181 | 735 | 3,449 |
| Liberty of ditto | 1,252 | 3,402 | 3,424 | 3,270 | 558 | 6,826 |
| Total | 27,401 | 63,417 | 68,340 | 29,303 | 31,426 | 131,757 |

## FAWSLEY HUNDRED

Is at the north-western angle of the county. At the time of the Domesday Survey, it was divided into two districts, or hundreds, named

named *Gravesend,* and *Alwardeslea;* but before the reign of Henry the Third, these were united under the present name. The hundred court was formerly held under a large beech tree* in Fawsley Park, but is now transferred to Everdon. This district is in general hilly, greatly diversified in scenery, and abounds in delightful and extensive prospects. The views from Newnham, Barby, Stowe, and Studbury Hill, are exceedingly fine; and the latter, is by some persons considered as the highest land in the kingdom. This hundred contains the parishes of *Ashby St. Ledgers, Badby, Barby* with Onely, *Braunston, Catesby, Charwelton,* Daventry, *Dodford, Everdon, Farthingstone, Fawsley, Hellidon, Kilsby, Litchborough, Newnham, Norton,* including the Hamlets of Muscott and Thrupp, *Preston-Capes, Staverton, Stowe-Nine-Churches, Wedon-Bec,* and *Welton.*

Ashby St. Ledger, a small village, situated upon a rivulet that forms a contributary stream to the river Nen, takes its additional name of St. Ledger, from the patron saint, Lodagrins, to which the *church* is dedicated. This structure consists of a nave, north and south ailes, with a tower and spire at the west end. At the upper end of the north aile are still remaining the steps which led to the rood-loft, between the chancel and the nave; here are three piscinas for holy or consecrated water; one in the north aile, another in the south aile, and a third near the altar. The advowson of this parish was, at an early period, appropriated to the priory of Launde, in Leicestershire, by the founder. In the church and chancel are several ancient sepulchral inscriptions: within the communion rails, upon an *altar tomb,* are the recumbent figures of a man and woman, and underneath the following inscription in black letter.

" Hic jacet Willielmus Catisby armiger, et Margareta uxor ejus, qui quidem Willielmus obiit vicessimo die mensis Augusti

* This tree, according to Bridges, measures 19 feet in circumference, "just above the spurs." Morton thought that it consisted of " two or three stems united in their growth."

Augusti anno Domini millesimo CCCC octogesimo quinto et predicta Margareta obiit VIII° die mensis Octobris anno Domini millesimo CCCC, LXXXXIIII, quorum animabus propicietur Deus. Amen." The distinguished person whose memory this inscription records, was one of the three favorites who ruled the kingdom under the usurpation of Richard the Third, and formed the conspicuous triumvirate, that gave rise to the old distich,

"The rat, and the *cat*, and Lovel the dog,
Do govern all England under the hog."*

In the first year of that Monarch's reign, (he is associated in the list of our kings) William was made esquire of the king's body; chancellor of the Marches for life, and one of the chamberlains of the Exchequer. Attending his royal master, in the last and fatal expedition which that usurper made, against the Earl of Richmond, he was taken prisoner at the battle of Bosworth field, while valiantly fighting by his patron's side, and three days afterwards beheaded as a traitor at Leicester. With a species of cruelty equally ludicrous as unjust, in the following Parliament, the long defunct William Catesby was attainted of high treason, by which attainder all his lands escheated to the crown. At the eastern end of both ailes of Ashby Church, are two portions separated from the rest, which formerly were appropriated as places of sepulture for the two great lords of the place. In one of these, called St. Mary's Chapel, many of the Catesby family have been interred; but most of the inscriptions on their monuments are effaced. From escutcheons over two recumbent figures on an *altar tomb*, it appears, they were meant to commemorate John de Catesby, who was commissioner for suppressing unlawful assemblies, during the famous insurrection under Jack Straw and Wat Tyler, in the reign of Richard the

* The rat was Richard Ratcliffe, the cat William Catesby, the dog Lord Lovel, and the hog was then the emblem or regal crest. Collingborn, the author of the libel, was prosecuted; and for this political jest forfeited his life.

the Second, and Emma his wife, by whom, as heiress of the Crawfords, in the reign of Edward the Third, the Catesbys came into the possession of this domain.

Robert Catesby, by whose attainder in the third year of James the First, the lordship of Ashby was again alienated from the family, rendered himself notorious by having been the projector and principal actor in that detestable conspiracy, generally denominated the gunpowder plot.* A small room in the detached offices belonging to the manorial house, is still shown as the council-chamber of the conspirators. Catesby was, for this inhuman design, beheaded; and his head, with that of his father-in-law, Thomas Percie, another abettor of the crime, fixed on the top of the Parliament house.

The manorial house of Ashby is a good old family mansion, at present occupied by Mrs. Ashley, the widow of the late John Ashley, Esq. who purchased the estates from the family of the Jansons.

Ashby Lodge, about a mile from the village, a handsome house in the modern style, is the seat of George Arnold, Esq.

Badby, is a considerable village, situated on the ascent of a hill, which forms part of an uninclosed district, comprising a large sandy heath, called Badby-down. In this parish are numerous springs, and several quarries of a hard blue stone, known by the name of rag-stone, which is found very serviceable for the purposes of building and paving. *Arberry*, or *Arbury hill*† in Badby parish is celebrated for having on its summit a large *encampment*, supposed to have been a work of the Romans. The ramparts are very steep, and the foss which nearly surrounds the



* A particular account of this, is given in the tenth volume of the present work.

† The name is a compound of a British word, *ard*, high, and the Saxon *Burgh* or bury, a fortification: a composition very common in the ancient names of places. This was probably one of the camps formed by Ostorius, who had a line of them on and near the Watling-Street: a vicinal way seems to have led from that great road, by this fortress into Oxfordshire.

whole, is very wide, and twenty feet deep; the figure is irregular, approximating to a square, and incloses an area of about ten acres. The south-west angle inclines outward, nearly in the shape of a modern bastion, and probably the upper angles were originally of the same form.

Newenham. This village is the birth-place of Thomas Randolph, the poet, who was born 1605. This eccentric, but certainly great genius, possessed peculiar poetic talents; for at the early age of nine years he is said to have written the history of Christ's Incarnation in verse. The first part of his education he received at Westminster school, whence he removed to Cambridge, was elected scholar of Trinity College in 1623, and subsequently proceeded to a fellowship. He was much esteemed by cotemporary poets, particularly by the celebrated Ben Jonson, who used to bestow on him the appellation of, "my son." Indulging freely in those excesses too common in unrestrained youth, he injured his constitution, and died at a premature age in the house of his patron, William Stafford, Esq. at Blackerwicke in this county; in the church of which place he was interred March, 17, 1634: and a monument of white marble, ornamented with emblems, was soon afterwards erected to his memory, by the liberality of Sir Christopher Hatton, of Kirby. His poems, which are principally of a humorous cast, abound with sterling wit; and some few are written in a grave and moralizing style. They were collected into a volume, and published by his brother Robert, who was likewise a poet, and died vicar of Donington in Lincolnshire, 1672.

Braunston, is a small village on the borders of Warwickshire, where the Oxford canal joins the line of the Grand Junction. The church is a large handsome structure, having a fine octangular spire (150 feet in height,) with crocketed angles. Near the upper end of this village is a stone *cross*, composed of four ledges of diverging steps, on which is raised a shaft of an octagonal shape, cut out of one block of stone, though eleven feet in height, and surmounted with a kind of entablature, decorated

corated with four busts, supposed to be representative of the four Evangelists. It was probably erected for a land mark by the convent of Nuneaton, which possessed two virgates of land in this parish. The *tenure* of a considerable portion of this lordship being of a peculiar nature, is deserving notice. If the widow of any copyholder appears in the manorial court, next ensuing the decease of her husband, and there presents a leathern purse with a groat in it, she may become tenant, and hold his copyhold lands for life; but to render this continuative tenancy valid, she must attend regularly every court-day.

Dr. Edward Reynolds, an eminent English prelate, though not a native, yet as long the resident clergyman of this parish, a great benefactor to the place, and not having been previously mentioned at Southampton, where he was born, may properly be noticed here. He was educated at Merton College, Oxford, where he eminently distinguished himself. Upon the breaking out of the Civil War in 1642, though professedly at that time an Episcopalian, and a preacher to the honorable society in Lincoln's-Inn, he joined the Presbyterian party, and the following year took his seat in the assembly of divines, convened at Westminster. On the ejection of Dr. Samuel Fell from the deanry of Christ Church, Dr. Reynolds was elected in his room, and made Vice Chancellor of the University. Refusing afterwards, in 1650, to take what was termed "the Independent Engagement," he was in his turn ejected from the deanry; and for some time resided on his cure at this place. Hence he removed to London, obtained the living of St. Lawrence in the Jewry, and in 1658 presented the congratulatory address from the London ministers to Richard Cromwell, on his succeeding his father in the protectorate. He was made Bishop of Norwich in 1661. The acceptance of a seat on the episcopal bench, gave great offence to his former connections. His death happened in 1676. He wrote and published much; and his works, which principally consist of Calvinistic divinity, have been collected into one folio volume

Catesby. In this village was formerly a *priory*, founded by Philip de Esseby, according to some writers, and by Robert, his son, according to others, for a prioress and nine nuns, of the Benedictine Order,* who endowed it with the advowson of the church, various lands, and as is highly probable, with the manor of Catesby; for in the thirty-first of Henry the Third, the prioress and nuns of this house obtained, among other privileges, the grant of a weekly market, to be held on Mondays, within their manor of Catesby, "apud manerium de Catteby." The principle of avarice which influenced King Henry VIII. to abolish the religious orders in England, is evident in the circumstances attending the suppression of this house. Though the commissioners appointed previous to the Dissolution to make their reports as to the actual state of each monastery, bore ample testimony to the good character of the inmates here; neither the discretion of the prioress, nor the acknowledged regularity of the nuns, were able to divert from his purpose the avaricious Monarch, nor prevent the downfall of this convent. On its suppression, in *exchange* for lands in Herefordshire and Salop, the revenues of the priory, arising from 788 acres of pasture, 83 of meadow, and 161 of arable land, exclusive of the convent, church, two water-mills, eight messuages, and one cottage, were granted to John Anly, Esq. On the site of the priory, and out of its ruins, has been erected a mansion belonging to the family of Parkhurst. A portion of the chapel is still visible. The present proprietor does not reside here.

In that part of the parish, denominated *Upper-Catesby*, stood the church, which is supposed to have been demolished at the same time with the priory, as it appears to have been disused for two hundred years past. Some remains of the four buttresses belonging to the tower, and a fragment of a wall having a pointed

* Speed says they were Gilbertines, or of the Sempringham order; but in a bull of Pope Gregory VIII., it is expressly called a priory of Benedictine nuns. The Cistercian monks were generally Bernardines; but many of the Cistercian societies of nuns were placed under the rules of St. Benedict.

a pointed window, are still standing. The church-yard continues to be the parochial cemetry, and divine service is performed in the chapel of the manor-house.

## DAVENTRY, OR DAVENTRE,

A MARKET town, is situated on the side and top of a hill, and is encompassed with hills to the south and east. Owing to the mode in which the name is generally pronounced, Danetre, the common people have imbibed a notion, that the place originated with the Danes. And from this silly traditional conceit has been taken the device for the dress of the town crier, who bears on his badge of office the effigies of a Dane in the act of cutting down a tree, i. e. Dane-tree. From such an etymology, however, the judicious antiquary appeals, and finds a better derivation of the appellation in the British words, *Dwy-avon-tre,* i. e. the town of the two Avons, exactly descriptive of the place situated between two rivers, bearing the same name.* At the Conquest this was certainly a place of note, as appears by the account of it in Domesday Book; in the time of which survey it formed part of the immense possessions bestowed by the Conqueror on his niece, the Countess Judith, whom he had given in marriage to Waltheof the great Earl of Northumberland; and to engage the future fidelity of this powerful nobleman, granted with her in dower this county and that of Huntingdon. The earl afterwards engaged in a conspiracy; but repenting of the steps he had taken, threw himself at the foot of the throne, and supplicated an amnesty for himself and followers: but notwithstanding such submission, he was beheaded in 1074, as is said, at the instigation of his wife.† This vicious woman, it appears, had cast her adulterous eyes on another, whom she intended to marry; but of this gratification she was disappointed by the policy of her uncle. He recommended to

 her

* Pennant's Journey from Chester to London.

† Bridges' Hist. of Northamptonshire, Vol I. p. 43.

her choice a Norman nobleman, Simon de St. Liz, who was lame, whom Judith rejected with disdainful scorn; which so enraged the king, that he alienated her honours and estates, and granted them to the same de St. Liz, on his marriage with the countess's daughter: leaving the mother to pine in reluctant widowhood.

A *Priory* was founded at Daventry in the year 1090, by Hugh de Leycester, for monks of the Cluniac order, and subject to St. Mary de Caritate in Canterbury. The number originally consisted of four only, who had their habitation at Preston-Capes, in which parish their patron had a baronial residence; but that situation having been found inconvenient, he obtained leave of Simon de St. Liz, Earl of Northampton, and Lord of Daventry, for their removal to this place; where he erected a priory for them near the parochial church. This house, by the long list of grants and benefactions, was most richly endowed, a circumstance that did not escape the keen observation of Cardinal Wolsey; for it was one of the monasteries dissolved by the permission of Pope Clement VII., and King Henry VIII., in the seventh year of his reign, and granted to the Cardinal for the purpose of erecting his intended new colleges of Ipswich, and Christchurch in Oxford. But with what fatal consequences to the principal agents in this nefarious transaction, we are informed by the venerable annalist, Stow. Wolsey had excited five persons to provoke a dispute with the monks of this house, about the right to certain lands, and caused the same to be brought, for final hearing, before himself as umpire in the cause. He embraced this opportunity of exercising the power, previously delegated by the pope and king, for dissolving the society and seized the revenues, on which the pious historian thus remarks. "But of this irreligious robbery done of no conscience, but to patch up pride, which private wealth could not furnish, what punishment hath since ensued by God's hand (sayeth mine author) partly ourselves have seen; for of those five persons, two fell at discord between themselves, and the one slew the other, for which the survivor was hanged; the third drowned

himself in a well: the fourth being well known, and valued worth two hundred pounds, became in three years so poore, that he begged till his dying day: and the fifth, called Dr. Allane, being chief executor of these doings, was cruelly maimed in Ireland, even at such time as he was bishop."* The same author then proceeds to trace the hand of retributive justice to the Cardinal, who died under the king's displeasure; then to the colleges, one pulled down, and the other never completed by the patron; and finally to the unrighteous pontiff, who was besieged in his holy see, and subsequently suffered a long imprisonment by the imperialists, who shut him up in the Castle of St. Angelo at Rome. On its suppression, the spiritualities of this priory were valued at 115*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, and the temporalities at 120*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* The conventual was afterwards made the parochial church, which a few years since was taken down, and a new edifice built. The monastery joined the west end of the old church, and thence the buildings extended northward. The part yet remaining, supposed to have been the refectory, is plainly discernible by the ancient windows and doorways, some of them in the pointed style, and a large flight of steps leading to the apartments.

Though Daventry sends no member to Parliament, it is a borough, incorporated under a charter, said to have been originally granted by King John; and again renewed and confirmed in the reign of Elizabeth. By virtue of this, the town is governed by a bailiff, twelve burgesses, twenty common-councilmen, usually denominated, "the twentymen," one recorder, two serjeants at mace, and a town-clerk. The bailiff for the time being is a justice of the peace, of the quorum, and chief clerk of the market. The recorder and town-clerk are required to be barristers at law. The former must be approved by his majesty, and is continued a justice of peace for life, by virtue of his office. The two serjeants at mace are empowered to arrest persons within the borough, attached for any debt under an hundred pounds; the bailiff, ex-bailiff, with the recorder, constituting a quorum, who may issue writs for the recovery of debts to that amount;



* Stow's Annals, p. 522.

they have likewise the power of committal to the county gaol, no other justices having cognizance of causes within the borough. No foreigner, i. e. none but townsmen, can serve on the local juries; and the inhabitants are exempt from serving on juries at the sessions and assizes for the county.

A Grammar School was founded here in 1576, by William Parker of London, woollen draper, a native of this place, who left an annual salary of twenty pounds for a master, and ten pounds to be distributed yearly amongst six poor men. Five boys are educated by a legacy of Lord Crewe, formerly Bishop of Durham; and twelve others are supported at school at the expense of the Corporation. By the returns made to Parliament in 1801, the number of houses was 503, and inhabitants 2582; of whom 669 were represented as occupied in trade. Here is a well supplied market on Wednesdays, and five annual fairs notable for the sale of horses, this being considered a central place of horse-dealing for the kingdom.

Daventry was the birth-place of Henry Holland, celebrated as one of the translators of the Rhemish Testament, a work, long the subject of polemical controversy between the divines of the Catholic and reformed churches. He received his early education at Eton, whence he went to St. John's College, in Oxford, and took a degree in arts; but changing his religion, he repaired to the university of Douay, in Flanders, where he took orders, removed to Rheims, and became an eminent tutor and preacher in the English College there. After some years' residence, he returned to England, with the view of aiding in the conversion of this nation to popery, for which purpose the Rhemish Testament was published. But finding the futility of the scheme, and wearied with the unprofitable employment, he retired to Douay, was made licentiate, and divinity reader to the adjacent monastery of Ancine, where he died in 1625, and was interred in the cloister. Over his grave was placed this distich:

> "Dantria me genuit, me clara Vigornia fovet,
> Etona me docuit, post docet Oxonium."

George

GEORGE ANDREW, Bishop of Fearns and Leighlin, in Ireland, a native of this town, received his education in Magdalen College, Oxford, where he took a degree, and entered into holy orders before he quitted the University. Removing into Ireland, he was first appointed to the Deanry of Limeric, and then preferred to the Bishopric of Fearns. But on the breaking out of the rebellion, he was driven from his See, and resided some years privately in London, where he died in 1648.

Here also was was born JOHN SMITH, a celebrated engraver in the mezzotinto style. "The end of King William's reign," says a noble author, "was illustrated by a genius of singular merit in his way, John Smith."* He was the son of John Smith, who had been three times bailiff of Daventry, and was placed out by his father as an apprentice to a painter in London, of the name of Tilley. When he had served the term, he applied to a Mr. Becket, from whom he learned the art of engraving in mezzotinto; and was further instructed by the famous Van de Vaart. He then received admission into the house of Sir Godfrey Kneller, to exercise his art in engraving the pictures of that eminent master. Besides portraits, he also engraved a variety of historic and fancy pieces, among which the most admired, for its peculiar delicacy of touch, is a holy family after Carlo Maratti. Previous to his death, Smith had collected proofs of his various plates, in two large volumes. Walpole says, he was the best mezzotintor of the age, or that has appeared, "who united softness with strength, and finishing with freedom." Though by the style of painting, from which he copied, his prints will carry something of burlesque down to the latest posterity. Smith died at Northampton, and was buried within the precincts of St. Peter's church, where a tablet is raised to his memory.

About half a mile to the south of the town, is the celebrated BOROUGH, or BURROUGH HILL, commonly called *Dane's Hill*, a spot peculiarly interesting to the lovers of antiquarian research. On the top of this is a very large *encampment* occupying nearly the

* Walpole's Catalogue of Engravers, p. 203.

the whole of the summit. In extent, perhaps it surpasses any similar work in the kingdom. The shape is oblong, inclining to an oval, or rather to the form of the human foot, and in this respect resembles the most formidable one the Romans had in the West of England, called *Worle Berry*, in the county of Somerset, though the latter is far inferior as to magnitude. The whole is variously defended, with two, three, or four valla, and an equal number of fossa, as the nature of the ground, and the facility, or difficulty of access appeared to require for its security. The length is rather less than a mile, and the breadth not more than one quarter in the widest part. Moreton, who minutely describes it, observes that the circumference "is generally reckoned three miles; and supposing the area to be an oval of two miles in circumference, it contains no less than one hundred and ninety acres. But the circuit is ten thousand five hundred and sixty paces, and the length five hundred and eighty-seven paces, of five feet to the pace. So that allowing nine feet square, for the lodgment of every foot soldier, no fewer than ninety-nine thousand, seven hundred foot soldiers might be quartered there."*

Near the northern extremity of the hill, the encampment was divided by a rampart, extending nearly across the area from east to west. The part thus separated from the larger fortification, consisted of an area of about twelve acres. This is nearly of a circular form, and has at the north east end a high mount, on which has been an *arx-exploratoria*, or the pretorium of the general; and on the east side of the foss is a spring, called *Spelwell*, which Camden by mistake denominates a mount.

On the south east side of the hill, about three hundred yards from the outer works of the larger encampment, is a smaller camp, forming a parallelogram or oblong square, encompassed by a single foss and vallum, having entrances on the east and west sides. The area includes about an acre.†

On

* Nat. Hist. of Northamptonshire, p. 520.

† This, Morton supposed, was a place to lodge carriages for the use of the

On the south, at the foot of the hill, is a remarkable spot denominated BURNT-WALLS, where various walls, arched vaults, foundations of buildings, &c. have been discovered, and whence large quantities of stone have, at different times, been removed, for the purposes of building. The space these occupy, contains about six acres, and appears to have formerly been surrounded with a foss. Some writers imagine this was a moat, and once supplied with water from the springs in Daventry park.

In a wood, contiguous to Burnt-Walls, are the vestiges of some other fortified place, which is traditionally called *John of Gaunt's Castle* ; but if ever this distinguished Lancastrian hero lived here, or possessed this post, it was probably part of the great Roman station at this place, and immediately connected with Burnt-Walls. This is mentioned, in an agreement between the convent and Robert Fitzwalter, lord of Daventry, in 38 of Henry III. "Dictus Convent. similiter in defenso habebunt culturam suam ad *Brende Wallis*."*

Such, briefly, are the works on Borough Hill and its vicinity. By whom they were originally formed, is a question that has afforded various topics for conjecture : as they have been assigned to the Danes, Saxons, Romans, and Britons. Pennant thinks the original encampment was the work of the latter people, the nature of the construction agreeing with the description of the Gaulish and British mode of fortifying places, left us by Tacitus, "Tunc montibus arduis & si qua clemantur accedi poterunt in modum valli saxa præstruit," and the same author informs us, that the Iceni took refuge from the army of the Roman prætor, Ostorius, "Locum pugnæ delegere septum agresti aggere et aditu angusto, ne pervius equis foret."† The Coritani when assailed, would of course avail themselves of such a strong position by nature, as this of Borough Hill, and fortify it in a similar manner,

larger encampment ; but Pennant considered it to have formed a *procestria*, a kind of free post adjacent to camps, where provisions and other necessaries were brought and deposited for the use of the soldiers.

* Brydges' Hist. of North. Vol. I, p. 43.

† Tacit· Annal. l. xii. c. 31·

manner; while Camden and others think it was the work of the proprætor. That on his being victorious against the natives of these parts, he took possession of their strong holds there can be little doubt, and finding this so eligible a spot to make a stand, would as certainly new model and strengthen the fortifications to increase its tenability; forming it into a summer camp, and the warmer situation beneath into a hibernaculum, or winter station. This he most probably established as a post, when on traversing the island, to quell the different insurrections of the insurgents, he fortified the river Aufona or Nen, by which means the retreat of Petilius Cerealis, the Roman general was covered, after his compleat defeat by the Britons; on which occasion the ninth Legion was cut to pieces, nearly the whole of his infantry either killed or taken, and he with difficulty escaped hither, accompanied by a portion of his cavalry. From these and other circumstances, Antiquaries of the first eminence, have been induced to consider Borough Hill, or rather Burnt-Walls, as the site of the Roman station,

Benavenna. This has been placed by Camden at the village of Wedon, in which opinion he has been followed by Burton, Gale, and Stukeley, the latter of whom positively asserts, that "Wedon in the street, is beyond dispute *Benavona*, as surely it ought to be wrote, being situated on the head of the Aufona, running to North-avanton, or North-ampton."* Two points, in addition to Roman remains, and the place being on, or near a Road, are requisite to decide questions of this nature. And when it is recollected how much the decisions of Camden were usually influenced by a comparison of the ancient and modern names of these towns, and what a portion of the word *Benaventa* is retained in Daventry: it is rather singular that he should have given the preference to the village of Wedon. Pennant thinks he finds a reason in the name, for placing the station at, or near Borough-hill, immediately adjacent to the town of Daventry.

* Itin. Curios. p. 107.

ventry. The Britons he conjectures would call this hill, as being near the source of a river, according to their usual mode of giving appellations to places, *pen,* pronounced ben, and Avon, river, i. e. Ben-avon or the head of the river; and as it is well known the Romans Latinized the British names, they would naturally term it Benavanna, or, as Stukeley acutely observes, *Benavona.* This exactly answers to the description of the place in question. One of the sources of the river Nen has its rise near Daventry, and the ancient name of this, has been thought by most writers to have been Aven, or Avon. This argument certainly applies much more strongly to Daventry, than to Wedon.*

Horsley is inclined to favor this opinion, but doubts whether to prefer Burrough Hill, or Ashby St. Leger: his reasons he deduces from the *distances* between this, and the next station, Venonis: in the second iter the number of miles set opposite Bennavanna or Benevenna, is XVII, and this he concludes to be nearly accurate, from the distance between Venonis and Benfavena, in the eighth iter being set down XVIII; which places, though the names are somewhat different, he considers identically the same. "I have therefore set off thirteen and a half computed miles, according to the large scale in Camden, and find it reaches exactly to Daventry, or Leger Ashby, or to that part of Watling Street that is over against those places. The present town of Daventry stands to the west of this great military way, but it is likely that the ancient Roman town may have nearly come up to it. There is sufficient evidence of a Roman station and town at this part, as will appear from the accounts we have in Camden and Dr. Stukeley, viz. the encampments, &c. at Borough Hill, already described."† Subsequent to the Romans leaving the Island, the Saxons appear to have occupied this post at an early period; they were no doubt in possession of it A. D. 1006. For in that year the Danes receiving fresh arrivals of invading troops under Swaine, carried

* Reynolds' Iter Britanarium, p. 217.

† Brit. Rom. p. 421.

fire

fire and sword through the country; and the Mercians, of which kingdom this country formed a frontier part, were commanded by Ethelred to rise en masse, and a portion were entrenched on Borough Hill, from which after a severe struggle, they were dispossessed by the Danes, who in their turn occupied it; whence the work has been attributed by some writers to that people. But it has justly been remarked, that every thing at present visible on this hill must not be ascribed to remote antiquity; for as Charles the First occupied and refortified this post, previous to the battle of Naseby: some of the fortifications may have been raised by the troops under that unfortunate Monarch. The entrenchment of Borough Hill, and the works in its vicinity, have been much defaced and reduced, within a few years, in consequence of inclosing the open fields, and appropriating the land to tillage.

FARTHINGSTONE. In this parish, on the brow of a hill, are some ancient *fortifications* denominated the CASTLE-DYKES, from a tradition that anciently a castle stood on the site. Morton conjectures, without advancing proof from any record, that it was formed about A. D. 813, when Ethelfleda, the relict and successor of Ethelred King of Mercia, raised several fortresses for the defence of her territories, and this was set fire to and burnt by the Danes, under Swaine A. D. 1013, who committed desperate ravages after he had passed the Watling Street, in his retaliating route from Gainsborough to Oxford.* The works are so overgrown with wood, that it is difficult to ascertain their form and extent. They include an area of about thirteen acres, and consist of two strong holds, divided by a ditch running from east to west, and the whole surrounded by two valla, separated by a foss from fifteen to twenty feet deep, and nearly one hundred feet broad from vallum to vallum. In digging for stone to erect a house, the workmen discovered a room built of squared or hewn stone, and which apparently once had a

* Nat. Hist. of North. p. 543.

vault-

vaulted stone roof; through the floor of this was another room beneath. Among the rubbish were found three rudely sculptured stones; the one having on it a bearded arrow, another a female head, and a third with the figures of a man and woman in the position of their arms a-kimbow.* Upon the south-west of a hill adjoining to the castle hill, is a plot of ground called the *castle-yard,* of an irregular shape, containing six or seven acres, entrenched on every side except the south-west, where the ground is highest; and at the bottom of the trench are large heaps of cinders incorporated with earth and pebbles. The fortifications at this place are curious, and highly interesting; for they present some rather unusual features of castrametation. The *Keep-mount* is very lofty, with the scarp peculiarly precipitous.

The parish of FAWSLEY, which gives name to the hundred, is situated in a well wooded country, and principally consists of the demesne and park appendant to FAWSLEY-HOUSE. Near the latter is the village Church, which is very neatly fitted up, and contains several fine *monuments,* raised to different persons of the Knightly family, who have been lords of this place ever since the time of King Henry the Third.

Among the monuments, that of Sir *Richard Knightly,* who died in 1616, and Jane his wife, has sculptured figures in alabaster in recumbent postures, on an altar tomb. He is represented in armour, over which is thrown an herald's mantle, and a mail doublet over his thighs. This Sir Richard was several times returned member of Parliament for the county. He was a most distinguished patron of the puritans, and, persuaded by the celebrated Snape and other ministers of the party, he was induced to expend large sums of money in printing incendiary pamphlets against the establishment. The mode in which such "swarms of libels were brought into existence, that they darkened the atmosphere by their numbers, and with their poisonous effluvia filled the land, is singularly curious." Not only

* Mag. Brit. Vol. III p. 507.

were

were itinerant preachers appointed to declaim against existing grievances, but itinerant printers, and portable presses moved from one place to another, for furthering the no-episcopacy scheme. One Walgrave, who had the conduct of those which had been brought down from Moulsey to Fawsley, on their way to Manchester, was for some time detained here by Sir Richard. And subsequently Waldgrave and the workmen having been seized by the Earl of Derby at Manchester, the secret was disclosed, Sir Richard, and other abettors were cited in the Star-chamber Court for the offence, severely censured, and ordered to be fined and imprisoned. But on the intercession of the pious and amiable Archbishop Whitgift, who had been a chief object of their slanderous assertions and insults, the fines were remitted, and their persons set at liberty.

The family appears to have been hostile to the establishment, till its suppression; for Mr. Richard Knightly in the reign of Charles the First, was one of the most zealous promoters of the discontents between the king and his subjects, which unhappily broke out soon after into open warfare. In Fawsley House, the grand scheme on which the malecontents determined to act, was matured, and the conduct concluded upon, to which they solemnly engaged to adhere; viz. The retrenchment of regal power; 1. in the right of making war and peace; 2. in the sole disposal and ordering of the militia; 3. in the nomination of all great officers to places of trust, and profit; 4. in the disposal of the revenues, which were proposed to be placed under the management and controul of four several councils, be to appointed by Parliament; and who should be empowered to act without any summons or writ, from the crown. A plan highly plausible in theory, but, as the event proved, difficult to execute, and disastrous in the issue.

On a *brass plate* in the *Church* are engraved representations of *Sir Edmund Knightly*, and his wife *Ursula*, who was sister to John Vere, Earl of Oxford. Though a serjeant at law, he is represented in armour, according to the fashion of the times. He died 1542.

A large mural monument is raised to the memory of Sir Valentine Knightly, and his wife Anne: he died in 1566.

Fawsley House, the ancient seat of the Knightly family, delightfully situated in Fawsley Park, is a motley building of different ages, and incongruously combined. Some of the oldest parts are curious, as calculated to display the customs and manners of our baronial ancestors. The Kitchens and Hall are particularly entitled to notice; the first from their peculiar fire places, and the latter for its lofty roof, bay window, and ornamental chimney-piece. The Kitchen, as Mr. Pennant observes, is "most hospitably divided." The chimney consists of two funnels, and on each side of the partition is an enormous fire place, though not adequate to roast "a hecatomb of beeves." The fire places are placed back to back, so as not to interrupt the respective operations at each. One is twelve feet six inches, and the other fourteen feet ten inches wide, with double arched mantle pieces of stone. The *Hall* is a noble room, fifty-two feet in length. It is very lofty, and has a timbered roof curiously carved. The grand bow window, forming the recess, is richly ornamented with stone tracery, and sculptured decorations. The rest of the windows are very large, and placed according to the fashion of the time when made, a great height above the floor. In each are emblazoned, in stained glass, the family arms, and those of the families with which the Knightly's have been connected. And these are numerous, as their alliances were extensive. But the chimney-piece, also very curious, is large, grand, admirably contrived, and richly decorated with tracery mouldings. Immediately over it is a large handsome window, the smoke being conveyed through two funnels, carried up inside the collateral buttresses of the fire place; by which contrivance the uniformity of the hall is equally preserved, as to windows, as though it had no chimney.* At the lower end are two doors in the pointed style.



* This has generally been supposed a mode first adopted from the continent; several of the modern great mansions in France having chimnies, carried up in this

Among the pictures are some curious portraits of the Knightly family, and others of eminent persons.

The park consists of a fine improved demesne, which abounds with ornamental forest woods. In the valleys are some well-disposed pieces of water in a finely wooded dell. The park is well stocked with deer.

Dr. John Wilkins, a celebrated divine and mathematician, was a native of Fawsley, having been born in the house of his maternal grandfather, the Rev. John Dod, (well known under the appellation of the *Decalogist*,) though his father was a goldsmith in Oxford. In 1627 he was admitted a student of New-Inn, Oxford, at the early age of thirteen, whence removing to Magdalen College, and having graduated, he entered into holy orders, and was appointed chaplain to Lord Say, and soon after to George, Count Palatine of the Rhine.

Wilkins was a striking instance of the fluctuation of opinions in individuals, and the heterogeneous conduct of government in the eventful period during which he lived. On the Civil War breaking out he joined the presbyterian faction, and subscribed to the covenant; and in 1648 was appointed to the wardenship of Wadham College, by the committee formed for the reformation of the University. Having legally vacated this trust, by his marrying Robina, sister of Oliver Cromwell: through his connection with the usurper, he obtained a dispensation of the statutes in his favour, and retained his station. By his nephew, Richard Cromwell, he was made master of Trinity College, Cambridge; but was ejected the following year, on the restoration. Subsequently conforming to the established church, he was successively preferred to be preacher to the Society of Gray's Inn, to the living of St. Lawrence, Jewry, to the deanry of Ripon; and, through the interest of the Duke of Buckingham was advanced, in 1658, to the Bishoprick of Chester: in which see he died, Nov. 19, 1672. The extent and universality of his learning have been generally allowed, which his works have

this manner, and a grand instance of it occurs in the Palais de Mouseaux, lately belonging to the Duc d'Orleans.

have tended to demonstrate;* and his greatest enemies can only censure him for instability in his political and hierarchical opinions.

Lichborough, or Litchborough, is supposed to have been one of the four British garrisoned towns taken by the Saxons, in the year 571. The name certainly better accords with the chronicle than either Loughborough, in Leicestershire, or Leighton, in Bedfordshire, at which places Lycanburgh† has been placed by Camden and Gibson.

Staverton. In this parish is a lofty hill, called *Studbury*, which has by many persons been considered the highest spot of ground in England; and the conjecture receives a considerable support from a fact, that the rain water which falls on the summit and sides, runs to three very different points of the compass; part westward to the river Leam, and thence into the Western Ocean; part eastward to the Nen, and onwards to the Eastern Sea; and a part southward into the Charwell, in which direction it proceeds by that channel nearly thirty miles towards Oxford. The only objection to this evidence being conclusive is, that to the north there is no water that runs in that bearing so far as five miles.

In the church of Stowe, commonly called *Stowe-nine-churches*, from the circumstance of the Lord of the Manor having had the

 right

* In 1638 he published, and which he afterwards enlarged, a "Discovery of a New World in the Moon," or an attempt to demonstrate, that there is another habitable world in that planet; in which he treats also of the possible means of forming a communication with the lunar inhabitants. An ingenious discourse entitled, "Natural Magic," was printed in 1680; he was also the author of several sermons; a volume on "the Gift of preaching;" another on the "Gift of Prayer:" and other works.

† Morton appropriately observes, that leaving out the Saxon syllable *an*, we have almost the identical name: and this is common in modern pronunciation; as Attenford, Atford; Exeancester, Exeter, &c. &c. Nat. Hist. of North. p. 538.

right of presentation to that number, is a magnificent *monument*, highly worthy the attention of the curious traveller, whether the worth which it was erected to commemorate, or the skill of the artist by whom it was executed, be taken into consideration. This, which Mr. Pennant styles the "most elegant tomb that this or any other kingdom can boast of," is sacred to the memory of *Elizabeth*, fourth daughter of *John Lord Latimer*. The figure is certainly a fine piece of sculpture, in white alabaster, recumbent on a black slab. The attitude is happily chosen, being the most easy possible, that of a person in sleep: her head, reclining on a cushion, is covered with a hood, with a quilted ruff round her neck; one hand is placed on her breast, and the other lies by her side; the gown, which covers her feet, flows in the most natural folds, and she lies on a long mantle lined with ermine, fastened at the neck with jewels: all is graceful, all would have been easy, had it not been for the preposterous fashion of the times, which is destructive of all beauty, grace, and symmetry. At the feet is a griffin couchant, holding a shield charged with the family arms. The figure lies on an altar-tomb of white marble, which is ornamented with various armorial bearings, and inscriptions on the sides: one of them states,

"Here lyes intombed the body of the Honorable Lady Elizabeth, 4th daughter, and co-heir of John Latimer, by the Lady Lucy Somerset, daughter of Henrie, Earl of Worcester, who was married unto Sir John Danvers, of Dantsey, in the county of Wilts, Knight, by whom she had issue, three sons and seven daughters." The other inscriptions relate to her children; for commemorating whose virtues and her own affections she caused this monument to be erected in her life-time:

Sic familia præclara
Præclarior prole
Virtute præclarissima
Ætatis 84
Anno
Dm°. 1630.
Commutavit sæcula; non obiit.

This handsome and interesting monument was executed by *Nicholas*

*Nicholas Stone,* who was a master mason, statuary and stone-cutter, to King James, and Charles the Second. He was an artist of some celebrity at that time: and parts of the present specimen are honorable testimonies of his abilities. From a note that Vertue preserved of his, it appears that, "March 16, 1617, I undertook to make a tombe for my lady, mother of Lord Danvers, which was all of white marbell and *touch*,* and I set it up at Stow-of-the-nine-churches in Northamptonshire, som two yeare after. One altar tombe; for which I had 220 li." When Pennant first visited this church, the monument here alluded to was "going fast to decay:" but since then it has been carefully cleaned and repaired; and is now guarded by the present rector, the Rev. Mr. Crawley, with laudable care and attention. As an example of the taste of the age, and state of sculpture, when it was executed, this may be deemed a very interesting piece of art. The head appears to be a portrait of the lady, and was probably executed from a cast.

On the north side of the chancel is a large marble mural *monument,* or *cenotaph,* raised to the memory of Dr. Thomas Turner, who was born in Bristol, 1645, and buried in 1714, in the chapel of Corpus-Christi College, Oxford. This benevolent man expended a large fortune in acts of charity: and at his death, after bequeathing 4000*l.* to his relations and friends, directed the residue of his property to be applied to public charities. He augmented the stipends of the poorer members of Ely Cathedral, in which he was prebend; left 100*l.* to be expended in apprenticing poor children of that city: 6000*l.* for improving the buildings of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, of which he had been president; and 20,000*l.* for the purchase of estates, the revenues of which were to be applied towards the relief of the poor widows and children of the clergy. His executors ac-

 cordingly

* "*Touch, Pierre de touch,* was a name applied to any black stone, which was used for the touching or trying of gold. At length the statuaries bestowed it on all the black marbles, because they were sometimes used for that purpose." Pennant.

cordingly bought the manor, &c. of Stowe; also the other lands of West Wrotting, in Cambridgeshire, to the value of 1000*l.* a year and upwards. The price of this manor was 16,000*l.* The monument records the charities of this worthy divine, a statue of whom is represented in his master of arts robes, on a terrestrial globe, with a book in his hand. A canopy over his head is supported by two fluted columns of the Corinthian order; and the monument is adorned with two large statues emblematic of religion and benevolence. The whole was executed by *Thomas Stayner*.

Wedon Bec, or, as it is now commonly called, Wedon Royal, receives its former appellation from a small religious house, that was founded here as a cell to the abbey of Bec, in Normandy. The name of Royal is modern: and has arisen from a large *military depôt* for arms, stores, &c. which has been erected and formed here within a few years. The place is sometimes called Wedon-in-the-Street, from being seated on the Roman Watling-Street. It is related that *Wulfere*, one of the Kings of Mercia, had a palace here; and that his daughter *Werburgh*, who was canonized as a saint, founded at this place a nunnery, which was endowed with singular privileges. This religious house, and probably the royal mansion, was burnt by the Danes. Leland says, that a chapel, dedicated to St. Werburgh, was standing in his time, attached to the south side of the church. The military buildings, called the *Depôt*, consist of a governor's house; also barracks, with several spacious storehouses, for artillery, muskets, ammunition, &c. A cut from the Grand Junction Canal is formed to communicate with the storehouses, and by this canal, the stores, and troops can be readily and cheaply conveyed to almost any part of England.

In the village *church* of Dodford, north-east of Wedon, are some ancient sepulchral memorials deserving notice. Pennant describes one to contain an effigy of "a cross-legged knight armed in mail, with both hands upon his sword, as if in

in the act of drawing it." This figure he conjectures to have been representative of "a *Keynes*, one of the ancient lords of the place; and from the attitude of his legs to have lived during the fashionable madness of the Crusades." Here is a brass-plate for *William Wyde*, who died owner of this place in 1422; and another in memory of his wife. In another part is an alabaster figure represented in armour, of *John Cressy*, who distinguished himself in the French wars, under the Duke of Bedford. He was made a Privy-counsellor in France, and died at Tove in Lorraine, A.D. 1443.

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## CHIPPING-WARDEN HUNDRED,

As to its aspect, has nearly the same characteristic features as the adjacent Hundred of Fawsley; being mostly hilly, and abounding in springs. Two streams have their source in it, and soon after leaving the hundred join the river Charwell. It contains no market-town, and the villages are but small. It comprehends the parishes of *Aston-le-Walls* including the Hamlet of Appletree, *Boddington-lower, Boddington-upper, Byfield, Chipping-Warden, Edgcote, Eydon, Greatworth, Sulgrave, and Woodford* cum Membris.

Chipping-Warden, or *Cheping-Warden*, the village which gives name to the hundred, was certainly once a market-town. The nominal adjunct chipping, is derived from the Saxon term *ceapen*, to cheapen, and metaphorically to buy. And in the twelfth year of King Richard's reign, the name first occurs annexed to the town, where a market was then held, by virtue of a grant obtained during the minority of Henry the Third, by Henry de Braybrook. In this parish are some entrenchments, denominated Arberry-Banks. Moreton conjectures that they were either a camp of the West-Saxons, formed when they in-

vaded Mercia, or works thrown up by the Danes, previous to the desperate battle fought between them and the Mercians on the plain called Danes-moor, adjacent to the village of Edgcot. Near the north end of the village is *Wallow-Bank*, an earthen rampire, which on the western side is almost perpendicular; but on the eastern, it slopes down with a gradual declivity. Only a small part of it remains, as portions at each end have been progressively levelled by the plough. From the base to the ridge of the present fragment is nine paces, and the length is about twenty-four. Morton conjectures that it originally extended southward below Walton, to the Charwell; and northward by Aston, hence called Aston-in-the-Wall, to the river Leam: an extent of sixteen miles.* This has been considered a *prætentura*, or fore fence, and is said to be evidently Roman, "from the form, and the coins found about it."† The purport of raising it appears to have been to secure the Roman conquests eastward of the vallum, from the incursive depredations of the Britons; who, taking advantage of the shelter afforded them by the Forest of Arden in Warwickshire, were continually infesting the Romanized natives of this part of the island. Morton says the name Wallow is derived from the word *Wall*, and *Alæwe* or *lowe*, the Saxon terms for a hill, as much as to say Wall-hill, to which the appellation, bank, has been a later addition. But in the Roman name of such a fortification is found a far more easy derivation. The Latin *vallum* leaving out the *m* at the end, and changing the *v* in pronunciation, as in many instances has been done in the names of places by the English,‡ gives us the identical word *Wallu*, pronounced Wallow. Near this vallum is a plot of land of about forty acres, denominated the *black-ground*, from the colour of the soil, where, frequently have been discovered, coins, pieces of hewn-stone, and

* Nat. Hist. of Northamp. p. 525.

† Mag. Brit. Vol. III. p. 545.

‡ Such, for instance, Wall, from Vallum, in Staffordshire: Wallingford in Berkshire, &c.

and foundations of buildings. Hence it seems highly probable that a Roman villa, or some other edifice belonging to the Romans, once existed here.

Edgcote-house, in the small parish of *Edgcote*, formerly the family seat of the Chaunceys, bears marks of antiquity, though the structure has been partially modernized. The back part of it, however, is deserving notice, not only as characteristic of the style of domestic architecture of a former period; but as having been the residence of the celebrated *Thomas Lord Cromwell*, Earl of Essex, vicar-general to King Henry the Eighth. Part of it was erected by him a short time previous to his attainder and decapitation. In this curious building, many of the doorways and windows are in the pointed style, and a saloon above stairs has the floor flagged; apparently as a preventative from fire, or as a refrigerating drawing-room during the heat of summer. Over the chimney-piece, in stone-work, are displayed ten quarterings of the family arms in one shield, also the same coats repeated on distinct shields. On the side of the arms in the upper part, are the figures of Mars, and Venus with Cupid by her side; and below, the statues of Apollo, and Vulcan. This curious piece of sculpture bears the date of 1598. The kitchen is peculiarly worthy of notice. The fire-place has two large chimnies of a peculiar character, with arch work in the front. In each, an arch of massy stone, eighteen feet in length, sustains itself; and the incumbent weight, although its form is the small segment of a large circle, nearly approximating to a flat. Over each of these is another arch more raised, and above it two vast funnels of stone, and between them a large window.* The House is now the seat of T. Carter, Esqr. M. P. In this parish, to the south of the village, is a spacious valley called *Danes-moor*, or Duns-more, where, it is said that a sanguinary conflict took place between the

* Dr. Wallis has described them in the Philosophical Transactions, Vol. XIV.

the Danes, who had in great force encamped on the heights of Rainsborough, and an army of Saxons collected to oppose their depredations. But as this is not mentioned in the Saxon Chronicle, it merely rests upon tradition. Greater credibility attaches to the account of a battle fought here between the leaders of the two contending factions, for the houses of York and Lancaster. The Lancastrians were commanded by Sir John Coniers, and Robert Hilliyard, who entitled himself Robin of Riddesdale. The followers of King Edward the Fourth were commanded by William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, who being defeated, and having lost five thousand men, and the rest of his army routed, was himself, together with his two brothers, John and Richard, and Richard Wydvil, Earl of Rivers, taken prisoners, and carried to Northampton; where, at the command of George, Duke of Clarence, and Richard Nevil, Earl of Warwick, who had recently revolted from the royal cause, they were beheaded four days after the battle. In 1642 the unfortunate Monarch, Charles the First, with his two sons, and a part of his army lay at Edgcote, previous to the battle of Edgehill; and returned to the same place the day after the engagement.

Sulgrave. Near the church of this village, are the remains of an *encampment*, on the summit of an eminence, called *Castle Hill*. This is very lofty, and commands an extensive reach of country: and it is traditionally related that nine counties can be seen from its apex. About a mile north of the village is an artificial mount, probably a sepulchral tumulus.

In the parish of Woodford, on the banks of the Nen, are some ancient remains, which in the Magna Britannia, are said to display "manifest signs of a place possessed by the Romans; for in a piece of ground called the *Meadow-furlong*," many tessellæ, tiles, and fragments of pottery have been found.

KING'S

## KING's SUTTON HUNDRED.

Assumes different features from the adjacent hundred of Chipping Warden: the northern part being generally flat, and the soil deep. On the west it is bounded by the Charwell, on the banks of which river is a fine tract of meadow land; and to the south-east, in the vicinity of Aynho, the ground becomes more elevated, and the soil light and dry. At the time of the Conqueror's survey, the present district was divided into two hundreds; one called the hundred of Elbodestow, or Abbodestowe; and the other the hundred of Sutton.

In its present state it contains the parishes of *Aynho, Brackley* St. James's, *Brackley* St. Peter, including the hamlet of Old Brackley with Halse, *Chalcombe, Croughton, Culworth, Evenley, Farthinghoe, Helmdon, Hinton* in the Hedges, *King's Sutton* with Astrope, *Marston* St. Lawrence, *Middleton-Cheney, Newbottle, Radston, Steane, Stutchbury, Syresham, Thenford, Thorp-Mandeville, Wappenham, Warkworth,* including the hamlet of Grimsbury, and *Whitfield.*

Aynho, a large respectable village, is situated on an eminence. Below the rock on which the village stands, issues a powerful spring of water, called the *Town-Well,* which running into the vale below, passes through a fine meadow, of about two hundred and twenty acres in extent, to the river Charwell. From this spring, and the situation, the place receives its appellation of Avon-ho, softened into Aynho. At the east end of the village, part of the vicinal Roman road, called *Port-way* is visible, and is traced again to the southward, but no vestiges of it appear to the north of this place. In the *church,* are numerous monumental memorials; several of which are commemorative of the Cartwright family, who have long been proprietors of this manor. It is now the property of W. R. Cartwright, Esq, M. P. for the county, who has a handsome seat here, and possesses a fine collection of pictures, some of which are by Morilli.

Here

Here was formerly an *Hospital*, founded by Roger Fitz-Richard, and his son Robert, in the time of Henry the Second, for the accommodation of poor and sick travellers. It was subsequently granted to Magdalen College, Oxford, from which society it is held by lease, and occupied as a private house, though still designated by the appellation of The *'Spital.*

A *Free-School* was also founded here by John Cartwright, Esq. and endowed with a rent charge of twenty pounds per annum, as a salary for a master.

Shakerley Marmion, born in the Manor house of Aynho, in the year 1602, was reputed by his cotemporaries to be a man of considerable genius and brilliant wit. More attentive to cultivate the friendship of the muses than in husbanding his estate, his fortune was quickly dissipated, and he commenced author. Besides several smaller poems, published as fugitive pieces, he was the author of four comedies, viz. *Holland's Leaguer; A Fine Companion; The Crafty Merchant,* or *The Soldier's Citizen;* and *The Antiquary.* He published a moral poem, in two books, entitled Cupid and Psyche. Marmion received an university education, in Wadham College, Oxford, where he proceeded to a master's degree; and Wood states that although he inherited an unincumbered estate of seven hundred per annum, yet he died poor in 1639.*

Sir Ralph Winwood, an eminent statesman, in the time of James the First, was also a native of this place. He was educated at Oxford, where he became probationer fellow of Magdalen College. Leaving the university, he travelled on the continent, to obtain a knowledge of diplomacy. In 1607, he received the honor of knighthood, and was employed as ambassador to the States of Holland. In 1614, he was made Secretary of State and a Privy Counsellor. He was born 1565, and died in 1617. His writings are "*Memorials of State Affairs,*" which after his death were published in one volume folio.

BRACKLEY

* Biographia Dramatica, & Athenæ Oxonienses.

## BRACKLEY,

Situated on a descent, near a branch of the river Ouse, takes its name from the brakes or fern, with which the adjacent country is said to have formerly abounded. Though at present but a small town, it has been much larger, of greater relative importance, and is considered one of the most ancient boroughs in the kingdom: many remains of its former greatness are still visible. "Master Paynell told me, that he saw at Brakley, in the parts by Bukyngham, manifest tokens, that it had beene a wallyd toune, and tokens of the gates and towres in the walles by the half circles of the foundations of them (I sowght diligently, and could find no tokens of walls or ditches) And that there hath bene a castell, the dyke and hills whereof do yet appere (I saw the castle plott.)*" Leland observes further, that it was "a flourishing town" in the time of the Saxons, but was rased by the Danes. That after the conquest it was again in a prosperous state, became one of the great staples for the sale of wool, and had the honor of being governed by a Mayor. These privileges it received in the reign of Edward the Second, and in the eleventh year of Edward the Third's reign, it was of such eminence, that it sent three representatives, as merchant-staplers, to a council, held respecting trade, at Westminster. The first notice on record, of Brackley, as an incorporated town, is in a deed respecting the hospital, dated in the fifty-sixth year of Henry the Third; and in the seventh year of Edward the Second, the title of Mayor was granted to its chief magistrate. The Corporation consists of a Mayor and six Aldermen, and twenty-six capital Burgesses; and as the lords of Brackley were instrumental in procuring the town this franchise, they have always been invested with a share in its execution. The Mayor is annually nominated from among the Aldermen.

* Leland's Itin. Vol. viii. fol. 101.

Aldermen, by the lord's Steward, and sworn before him at the manorial court. Oldfield says, this town first sent members to the British Senate in the reign of Edward the First;* but Brydges observes, "that it never sent any burgesses to Parliament, nor ever received any precept to send, as a borough, till after the last Parliament of Henry the Eighth; when upon the dissolution of the monasteries, most boroughs, whose lords were courtiers, were encouraged to return members, and the large dissolved abbey towns were particularly summoned." †

In this town was anciently a *Castle*, as Leland noticed, but by whom erected, or when rased, does not appear: there were no remains in the time of Leland, though the site still retains the name of Castle-Hill. Here were anciently two churches; St. Peter's and St. James's. The former is still the parochial church, and the latter a chapel of ease to it. The *Hospital* dedicated to St. James and St. John, is said by Camden to have been founded by the family of Zouch, who were great benefactors to the institution. The founder was Robert Bossu, Earl of Leicester, in the reign of King Henry the First. It originally consisted of a master and six fellows, who were a kind of canons, or secular chaplains, subject to no ecclesiastical rule. It was afterwards granted to Magdalen College, Oxford, on condition, that the master and fellows should maintain here a stipendiary priest, to sing and say mass for the soul of Francis Lord Lovell, and the souls of his ancestors. The College appears to have made it a kind of asylum for their society in perilous times; for in the reign of King John, A. D. 1212, that prince went to Oxford, to meet his Barons, who disobeying the summons of the king, and a civil war ensuing, the students were great sufferers, many were dispersed, and the members of Magdalen found their safety by retiring here. The building is now in a ruinous condition: in the modern hall‡ are one hundred and five shields, charged

* Hist. of the Orig. Const. of Parl. p. 115.

† Hist. of Northamptonshire, Vol. 1, p. 143.

‡ The ancient hall was taken down many years since.

charged with the arms of several prelates, nobles and distinguished personages.

The Hospital, with its offices, appears to have consisted originally of two quadrangles. The Chapel is still subsisting, though stripped of its former decorations, and in a dilapidated state. It has a broad low tower on the north-west side. The door-way at the west end, has a circular arch, with crenellated, and other antique mouldings. Over this is a window, composed of three divisions, each in the pointed style, with nail-head mouldings; and on each side is a niche in the statues. On the south side of this chapel, near the high altar, was a confessionary of five arches. In the presbytery, Leland informs us, were interred several noblemen, whose tombs he saw, and by the arms they were some of the Lords, Holland, Zouch, and Lovell. Of the tombs, however, none remain, though the right of sepulture still attaches to the place. The estates belonging to this hospital are still vested in Magdalen College, without any obligation to perform the condition on which they were originally granted. A *Free School* was founded here in the time of Edward the Sixth.

Besides the above, there was another *Hospital* for the sick and infirm, called *St. Leonard's,* which was placed under the conduct of a master.

*An Alm's House* was founded here by Sir Thomas Crewe, for six decayed women, each of whom was to receive the annual sum of four pounds. This allowance was subsequently increased to six pounds by the founder's grandson, Nathaniel Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham.

Leland mentions three *crosses,* at this place, one of which, from his description, must have been a very curious object, and was probably erected by the Staplers. It was twenty-eight feet in height, with an octagonal pillar in the centre, and the sides ornamented with the statues of male and female figures, with various decorations of tabernacle work. This was taken down about the year, 1706, to make room for the erection of the present town hall.

The present town of Brackley, can only shew its former extent by its ruins, and its pristine prosperity, by a reference to its records. It consists of one street, extending from the bridge up the side of the hill, about a mile in length; and the houses are chiefly constructed of stone. By the returns made under the population act, the number of houses was 256, and inhabitants 1420. Leland observed, that in his time "the market was desolated." But at present the town has a well supplied market on Wednesdays, and a good market house for the accommodation of the attendants.

In the vicinity of Brackley, is a piece of land called *Bayard's-Green*, where, in the days of chivalry, several tournaments were exhibited. The first of these martial shews, was performed in the thirty-second year of King Henry the Third's and reign; in the following year was another display of a similar kind. A third tournament was held here in 1267, when several highly distinguished persons entered the lists.

Samuel Clarke, noted for his skill in the oriental languages, was a native of Brackley. He was educated at Merton College Oxford, where he took the degree of master of arts, and leaving the University, kept a school at Islington, near London. But returning again to Oxford, he was in 1658, appointed to the office of Architypographus, and elected superior beadle of the Civil Law. He was consulted by Dr. Edmund Castell, in his Heptaglott Lexicon, and as the Doctor acknowledges in his preface to the first volume, furnished considerable assistance to that learned work. The Polyglott Bible, also, published by Bishop Walton, is much indebted to Mr. Clarke for the portion of learning and labours he afforded towards its completion. He wrote several essays relative to Oriental literature, which remain in manuscript, in the archives of the Bodleian Library. He died December 27th, 1669, and was interred in the parish church of Holywell, Oxford.

In the Church of Croughton, is an handsome *monument* to

the memory of the Rev. William *Friend,* M. A. formerly rector of this parish, and his three sons; Robert, who was head master of Westminster School; William, and *John.* The latter, who became an eminent Physician, was born here, and received his early education at Westminster School, whence he was removed to Christ Church College, Oxford. He was successively appointed Professor of Chemistry to the University, Physician to the Army in Spain, Fellow of the College of Physicians, and in 1722 was elected member for Launceston, in Cornwall. He was appointed Physician to the Queen of George the Second, and died in 1728. Besides other publications, he was author of a Course of Chemical Lectures:---"The History of Physic from the time of Galen to the beginning of the 16th century," &c. 2 vols. 8vo. All his writings were collected and published in Latin, by Dr. Wigan, in one volume folio.*

Helmdon, the parsonage house of this village, is rendered noted in the annals of antiquarian literature, by an ancient inscription on a mantle-piece in one of the rooms. Much disputation and ingenious conjecture have been exercised on the subject,† and on the first introduction of Arabic numerals into England. From the prints that have been engraved of the inscription, and published in the Philosophical Transactions, Archaeologia, &c. we should be inclined to think that the figures and letters were formed by some common illiterate carpenter, who was unable to make them either with accuracy or propriety. Hence it seems very absurd to deduce any systematic conclusions from such questionable data. The date is said to be A° D°i. M°. 133. Mr. Denne thinks it should be read 1533, ‡ and this is more likely than the former date.



* Aikin's Biographical Memoirs of Medicine.

† This circumstance reminds us of a story related of King Charles the Second, and the Royal Society; already given in Vol. 1. p. 87 of this work.

‡ See Archaeologia Vol. XIII. p. 107—114

Kings Sutton Church, is distinguished by its western tower, which is ornamented with a lofty handsome spire, and crocketed pinnacles. In the hamlet of *Astrop*, in this parish, is a mineral spring called *St. Rumbald's-Well*, which formerly attracted many visitors to the place, but its celebrity has declined.

Astrop Hall, formerly the seat of Lord Chief Justice Willes, is now the residence of a descendant of his lordship, the Rev. W. S. Willes.

Middleton Cheney, or *Chenduit*. Over the door of the church tower of this village is the statue of a saint, with various decorations in stone work; and on the south side of the church is a *porch* of rather singular contrivance and execution. The roof is wholly of stone, and formed with a more acute angle than those usually constructed with timber. The stones which compose it are all cut with an inarching joint, by which means they are prevented from falling, and lie compact and firm.* It is the custom in summer to strew the floor of this church with hay, cut from ash-meadow, and in winter straw is found at the expense of the rector. A peculiar tenure also prevails in the lordship of this parish. When estates descend in the female line, the eldest sister inherits by law.

On a field in this parish, a battle was fought between the royal and parliamentarian forces, when the latter were defeated. In the history of the Civil Wars, this battle is denominated *Middleton-Cheney-fight*.

Newbottle. In this parish is an old manor-house, which formerly belonged to the Earls of Thanet, but has been lately purchased by W. R. Cartwright, Esq. M. P.

The Hamlet of Charlton is noted for a fortification called Rainsborough, of which a manuscript account, preserved in the museum at Oxford, gives this description. "In the limits of

* The south porch of Barnack Church is similarly formed.

of Charlton, and in the parish of Newbottle, in Northamptonshire, is on the top of a little hill, which has a prospect round about it, a camp with a double fortification. The mound about it hath, as it seems, been woodland. The inward fortification is more than a quarter of a mile about; the outward half at least. This camp and hill is called Rainsborough Hill, though some gentlemen in the neighbourhood would have it Dainesborough Hill, as if it had been a camp of the Danes." Since the time of this writer the encampment has undergone considerable alteration.

Steane, or Stene. The manor of this parish was once the property of the distinguished family of the Crewes, (now of Cheshire) many of whom were interred in the church, wherein are still several monuments sacred to their memory. Against the north wall of the family burial-place is a neat marble slab, supported by pillars of the Ionic order, with an inscription to "*John Lord Crewe*, Baron of Steane, who died on the 82d year of his age, Dec. 12, 1679. Another inscription is to

"Thomas Crewe miles serviens dni regis ad legem, prolocutor parliamentorum annis XXI° Jacobi, et I° Caroli Feb. anno dni 1633, obiit ætatis suæ 68. Peregrinus in Partriam."

On an *altar tomb*, composed of white, black and grey marble, are two recumbant statues; one representative of a person in the habit of a serjeant at law, reposing his head on his right hand, and holding a roll in the left; the other, of a female reclining on a pillow, habited in the costume of the time. On a tablet is this inscription, "*Temperans* Crewe, the wife of Thomas Crewe, Esq. and one of the daughters and co-heirs of Reginald Bray, Esq. by Anne his wife, daughter of Thomas Lord Vaux, died in the year of our Lord, 25 October, 1619, and in the year 38 of hir age, and now resteth from hir labours, and hir works follow hir.

Præmissa non amissa, discessa non mortua
Conjux casta, parens fœlix, matrona pudica,
Sara vivo, mundo Martha, Maria Deo."

On another tablet, surmounted by the family arms, is this inscription:

"JOHN LORD CREWE, Baron of Steane, son of Sir Thomas Crewe, Knight, and Temperance his wife, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Reginald Bray, of Steane, in the county of Northampton, Esq. died in the eighty-second year of his age, on the twelfth day of December, in the year of our Lord 1679." This John Lord Crewe was a member of parliament in the fifteenth year of Charles the First's reign, and during the troubles and usurpation his fidelity to that unfortunate Monarch remained unshaken. By his prudence and perseverance he became one of the happy intruments in the restoration of royalty. In return for his services he was, by King Charles the Second, in the twelfth year of his reign, called from the lower to the upper house, by the style and title of *Lord Crewe, Baron of Steane.*

Near the monument of Thomas Lord Crewe, is another handsome one of veined marble, sacred to the memory of NATHANIEL LORD CREWE, Lord Bishop of Durham. He was born at this place, January 31, 1633, and received his education in Lincoln College, Oxford, where he co-operated with the presbyterian party; but at the restoration took holy orders, and in 1669 was made Dean of Chichester. In 1671 he was preferred to the bishopric of Oxford, from which see he was afterwards, in 1674, translated to Durham. For his preferments he was indebted to James, Duke of York, whose measures he strenuously supported; yet in the conventional parliament held against that Monarch's interest, he was one of those who voted that James had abdicated the throne. This, however, did not obtain for him the desired exemption: he was excepted out of the general amnesty granted by William and Mary to the adherents of the Stewart family. At length, however, he procured the Royal pardon, and was permitted to retain his dignity. By the death of his brother, in 1691, he succeeded to the paternal title, and died Baron of Steane, September 18, 1721.

The vestments belonging to this church form an object of some curiosity. The furniture for the altar, pulpit, and reading desk,

desk, is rich crimson velvet, originally made for the Royal Chapel of St. James's, and was a present to this church by Nathaniel Lord Crewe, clerk of the closet to King Charles the Second; who gave also the Bible which had been used by that Monarch.

The *Manor-house* of Steane was transferred from the Crewes to the Duke of Kent, and has since been purchased by Earl Spencer, but is occupied by a farmer.

About a mile and half from Middleton is THENFORD HALL, the seat of Michael Woodhull, Esq. who has distinguished himself in the annals of literature, by a "Poem on Equality," &c. This house contains a large and choice collection of Books and MSS. This estate came into the possession of the Woodhull family by purchase in the time of King Henry the Seventh. In the church is a monument, with an effigy of a man in armour, said to be for *Fuleo de Wodhull*, who died in 1613.

About a mile northward of the village of Thenford is a high hill, called *Arbury*, which was apparently once fortified with a circumvallation, though at present only part of the rampart is visible on the south side. In the vicinity have been found such tessellæ as the Romans used in their Mosaic pavements, a medal of the Emperor Constans, and in the church-yard an urn filled with incinerated bones: notwithstanding these indications of Roman vestiges, Morton, with his usual partiality refers it to the Danes.*

In the hamlet of ASTWELL, in the parish of *Wappenham*, is an ancient mansion, the property of the Marquis of Buckingham, now occupied by a farmer, but formerly a seat of the Earls Ferrars. Behind the gateway is a small court, whence is the entrance into the large hall, the windows of which project, and have over them battlements. The chimney-pieces and wainscot in several of the rooms are ornamented with armorial bearings, and other carved decorations. At the east end of the large parlour was formerly a chapel, now dilapidated.



* Nat. Hist. of Northamp. p. 541.

Warkworth Castle, in the parish of Warkworth, was formerly the seat of the Woodhulls and the Chetwoods. This handsome castellated mansion consisted of a body, and two wings, forming three sides of a quadrangle, and the centre was flanked with two bastion towers, rising to the height of the building, one on each side. It stood in a large park, decorated with fish ponds and plantations. On the death of the late owner, Francis Eyre, Esq. the estate was sold, the house pulled down, and the pleasure-grounds, &c. destroyed. In the *Church* are several ancient sepulchral inscriptions, on brass plates and stones. Some of them bear the early dates of 1412 and 1420. One of these records the name and memory of "Mons. *John Chetwode*, Chivelar of Warkworth," who died 1412.

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## GREEN's NORTON HUNDRED

Is a small district, situated to the north-east of King's Sutton, and in its general aspect displays similar features to those of that division of the county. In the south-east part it is, however, covered by a portion of Whittlewood Forest. In the time of the Norman conquest it was denominated the Hundred of Foxle, from a town since destroyed, which stood near its southern boundary. In the reign of Edward the Third, this and the manor of Norton having been purchased by Sir Henry Greene, the name was changed to Green's Norton, and ever since both have been vested in the same proprietors.

This hundred contains the parishes of *Blakesley, Bradden, Cannons-Ashby,* including the hamlet of Adston, *Green's Norton, Maidford, Moreton-Pinkney, Plumpton, Silverstone, Slapton, Weston, Weedon,* and *Whittlebury;* and the Hamlet of Wood-end.

Ashby Canons received the latter appellation from a *priory of Black Canons,* probably founded by Stephen de Leye, in the reign

reign of Henry the Second; and in one of his gifts of lands he solemnly confirms the grant by the offering of a sword upon the altar, in the presence of all the parishioners, whom he constituted witnesses between him and God, of the benefit conferred. The annual revenues at the dissolution were valued at 112*l.* 8*s.* 4¼*d.* and the site of the house, with the possessions belonging to the monks, were granted to Sir Francis Bryan, from whom they passed to Sir John Cope. Nothing remains of the monastery but the small church, in which are sepulchral mementos of several of the *Dryden* family who came into possession of the manor after the Copes.

The mansion-house, at present the seat of Sir John Dryden, is a moderate-sized structure, built in an age when strength and stability were more consulted in architectural designs than regularity or symmetry. It received some repairs and embellishments a few years since, out of the ruins of the residence of the Copes above mentioned. In the present building, the only thing remarkable is a room thirty feet by twenty, which is said to be entirely floored and wainscotted with the timber contained in a single oak-tree which grew on this lordship.

Green's Norton. In this village, which gives title to the hundred, it is generally supposed, was born the celebrated lady, eminently distinguished both for virtue and rank, Queen Catherine Parre, and her brother William, Marquis of Northampton. On the marriage of their father, Thomas Parre, Knt. with Maud, one of the co-heiresses of Sir Thomas Greene, he came to reside at this place. Catherine having been introduced at court, found means to engage the affections of the amorous King Henry the Eighth, and became his sixth wife. She had received, according to the custom of the age, a learned education, to which she happily joined an uncommon share of prudence: as the mode in which she conducted herself, amidst the surrounding difficulties of the times, evidently evinced. Her attachment to the reformation, and favorable attention to the reformers, roused the hatred of Gardiner, and other zealous

champions for the church of Rome, who by various plots and contrivances endeavoured to effect her downfall and ruin. But in despite of all their machinations, by her judicious conduct, and conciliatory demeanour, she preserved her interest in the King's affections till the day of his death. Her second marriage, with Sir Thomas Seymour, Lord High Admiral of England, in 1547, was still less propitious; for, in consequence of his ill treatment, she died of grief the following year.

In the church are a few monuments worthy of notice. On an *altar tomb* are the effigies of a man in armour, and his wife in the dress of the time, in white marble. The first represents Thomas Green, who died in the time of Edward the Third. Other memorials of the Green family are found here in different stones, brasses, and fragments of stained glass. The *font* in this church is ancient and curious.

Silveston, a hamlet in Greens Norton parish, has by some antiquaries been considered an usual residence of some of our ancient kings. And in confirmation of the fact, it is stated, that in 1194, Richard the First, in the fifth year of his reign, took up his abode, when William King of Scotland had an audience to prefer his complaint against the Bishop of Durham, for an insult he had received from that prelate at Brackley, and that the records inform us Edward the First twice resided here. But there are no vestiges of any royal palace at Silveston; whence we are induced to conclude that this place was only visited occasionally by a few monarchs.

Whittlebury, another hamlet in this parish, contains several handsome villas, belonging to distinguished families. Sylvan scenery attracts the attention of the votaries of taste; and furnishes means for the display of it. Retirement, shade, and seclusion, if they do not rank among our ideas of sublimity, are certainly connected with our views of comfort, and intimately associated with our pleasurable sensations. The Forest of Whittlewood, with its walks, purlieus, &c., has been already noticed in the general description of the county.

Wakefield Lodge, the seat of the Duke of Grafton, hereditary ranger, is delightfully situated on a gentle eminence, which slopes gradually to the margin of a lake. The opposite bank swells into a noble lawn, nearly a mile in extent; the smooth features and soft tints of which are finely contrasted by the bold and abrupt aspect of a dense woodland scene, terminating the view. Standing in the centre of the forest, many beautiful rides branch off in almost every direction from the house, which is a large mansion built by a Mr. Cleypole, son-in-law of Cromwell.

Shelbrook Lawn, a handsome house lately rebuilt, is the seat of the honorable General Fitzroy. Within about half a mile of what is termed Whittlebury Green, a neat hunting box has been recently erected by Lord Southampton. On the opposite side of the green, the Honorable and Rev. Henry Beauclerk has a good house, surrounded with pleasure grounds, tastefully laid out, and opening into the wild scenery of the forest.

## TOWCESTER HUNDRED

Is generally hilly, yet the features are of that indistinct kind which afford little diversity of prospect, and are still less interesting in picturesque scenery. The Watling-Street, which makes a considerable angle at Towcester, traverses, in a straight line, the hundred to Forster's Booth, and enters in the same direction the hundred of Fawsley. This district was anciently of much greater extent, but was reduced to its present limits in the time of Edward the First. This hundred contains the parishes of *Abthorpe,* including the Hamlet of Foscote, *Cold Higham, Gayton, Pattishall, Tiffield,* and the town of *Towcester.*

Pateshull or Pattershall, is memorable for having been the

the birth-place of several celebrated characters; among whom was Simon de Pateshull, or *Pattishull*, who, according to Matthew of Westminster, was an able minister and statesman, a faithful privy counsellor, and of great political authority in the time of King Richard the First. And from the sixth year of that monarch's reign, till the eighth of King John's, served the office of sheriff for this county. In the first year of the latter reign he was appointed one of the justices in the court of King's Bench; and in the seventeenth year of Henry the Third, made Lord Chief Justice of England.*

Hugh de Pateshull was a person of no less distinction, the father's reputation conducing to the advancement of his son. In the early part of Henry the Third's reign, he had committed to him the custody of the Exchequer seal; and having executed that important trust with application and fidelity, in the eighteenth year of the same reign, he was promoted to the high office of treasurer of England; he was afterwards made Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. Cotemporary with these, and of the same family was Martin de Pateshull, who, though a clergyman, also in the first year of the reign of Henry the Third, was made Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, continued in that office upwards of twelve years, and died dean of St. Paul's.

Dr. Richard Steward, who was born here in 1595, studied in Magdalen College Oxford, of which society he was elected fellow. He first devoted his attention to civil law, but afterwards to theology, and soon became one of the most eminent divines of the age in which he lived, and obtained several dignified preferments. In 1628 he was made prebendary of Worcester, appointed to a stall in the cathedral of Sarum in 1629, chaplain in ordinary to King Charles the First, and made Dean of Chichester in 1634. In 1638 he was appointed clerk of the closet, the following year Provost of Eton College, dean of the chapel-

* Fuller's Worthies.

chapel-royal, Prebendary of St. Pancras, and Dean of St. Paul's in 1641. In 1645 he was advanced to the deanry of Westminster, and died at Paris, Nov. 14, 1651.

## TOWCESTER

Commonly called *Toseter*, and in the Domesday Book *Tovecestre*, is situated on a plain near the banks of a small river, named Tove. Numerous Roman coins have been found here, particularly about *Berrymount Hill*, which is an artificial mount composed of earth and gravel, on the north-east side of the town. It is flat on the top, about twenty-four feet in height, and the diameter one hundred and two. This hill was surrounded by a moat capable of being filled with water from the adjoining brook, and has every appearance of having been a Roman muniment. Horsley* places here the station *Lactodoro* with greater probability of correctness than at Stony-Stratford, as Gale and Stukeley have done; though both places have an equal claim as to their being on a great Roman road. The distance assigned between Benavenna and Lactodoro is XII millia, and the distance between Daventry and Towcester nearly accords with this, being twelve statute miles: for though the Roman was somewhat less than the English mile, yet the difference may be reconciled, by the Watling-Street proceeding straight, and the present turnpike curving to the south. On the north-west side of the town are vestiges of a foss, and the ruins of a castle or tower, probably a Saxon work; for in that period this town appears to have been a place of considerable strength, and is said to have been so well fortified, that the Danes who besieged, were unable to take it.† However, at some time it must have suffered from those people, for in the year 921 King Edward, who was in possession of the whole kingdom, excepting a part occupied by the hostile Danes, issued

* Brit. Rom. p. 422.

† Mag. Brit. Vol. III. p. 549.

issued his mandate for the rebuilding and fortifying Towcester. The Danes of Northampton and Leicester, who had previously made a truce with the Saxons, suddenly broke their engagement; and marching to this place, carried on an assault for a whole day; but the inhabitants displayed their courage by a vigorous and successful resistance; and being succoured by a Saxon army, the Danes were obliged to retreat. In consequence of this, towards the close of the summer, Edward advancing with his army to Passenham encamped there, till he had fortified Towcester, and encompassed it with a stone wall.* At present Towcester consists principally of one long street, the houses in which are generally well built, and being a great thoroughfare, there are several good inns. In the windows of one, the Talbot, are the arms and name of *William Sponne*, Archdeacon of Norfolk, and rector of Towcester, who, in the twenty-ninth year of King Henry the Sixth, gave this inn and certain lands for the payment of the *fifteenths*, if any such tax should be levied by Parliament: and in case of no such tax being levied, then the revenue to be applied by the feoffees for repairing and paving the streets of the town, &c. He founded also a college and chantry here for two priests to pray for his soul, and the souls of his relations; the revenues of which, at the Dissolution, were valued at 19*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum. A *monument* in the church commemorates this benefactor to the town. He is represented in a loose robe which descends beneath his feet, with an ermine hood and sleeves. Beneath is a representation of an emaciated body, such as is very commonly seen in cathedrals. By the returns made under the population act in 1801, the number of houses appears to be 424, and inhabitants 2030; of whom 846 were represented as being employed in trades and manufactures, principally in those of silk and lace, of which latter article great quantities are made in this town and the adjacent villages.

Sir

* Chron. Sax.

Sir Richard Empson, of notorious memory, was the son of a sieve-maker in this place. He turned his attention to the law, by his eminent skill in which, he became a favorite of King Henry the Seventh, who made him chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, and to serve the purposes of royal avarice, promoter-general for enforcing the penal statutes throughout the kingdom. This, he, with his associate Edmund Dudley, did with so much rigour and relentless cruelty, that they incensed the people to such a degree, that Henry the Eighth was constrained to submit to popular remonstrance, and sign his hand for their execution. Empson was tried at Northampton, and beheaded Aug. 16, 1510.

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## CLELEY HUNDRED

Consists principally of open fields, and may be said to contain more uninclosed land than any hundred in the county; in the southern division, except on the Duke of Grafton's estate, there is scarcely an inclosure. This district projects into Buckinghamshire, is intersected by the Tove river, the grand junction canal, and the great northern turnpike road. Cleley Hundred contains the parishes of *Alderton, Ashton, Cosgrove, Easton-Neston,* with Hulcott, *Fortho, Grafton-Regis, Hartwell, Passenham,* including the hamlets of Denshanger, Powkesley, and part of Old Stratford, *Paulerspury, Potterspury,* including the hamlet of Yardly Gobion, *Roade, Stoke-Bruern,* including the hamlet of Shuttlehanger, and *Wicken.*

In the church of Ashton, under an arch near the pulpit, on an *altar-tomb,* is the marble figure of a man in a military dress. His head is shewn reclining on a pillow, and supported by two angels, whilst his feet are resting on a lion couchant. The belt round

round his armour is ornamented with roses, and round the verge this inscription, in black letter:

"Mons. *Johan Harteshall* gist yey Dieu de sa alme eit mercy, Amen." The person this monument commemorates, lived in the time of Edward the Third. At the upper end of the north aile is an *altar-tomb*, with effigies of a man and his wife, in praying postures, also nine sons and six daughters. At the head of this monument, on a tomb of free-stone, against the north wall lies the figure of a cross-legged knight, in wood.*

Easton-Neston, a village about one mile and a half from Towcester, has been rendered eminent in the estimation of artists and connoisseurs, from the splendid collection of ancient marbles, pictures, &c. which formerly decorated, and gave dignity to the mansion of the Earls *of Pomfret* at this place. The statues, &c. were presented to the university of Oxford, in 1755, by Henrietta Louisa, Countess of Pomfret, a lady distinguished for her literary talents.

Since that time, Easton-Neston has lost much of its attractive consequence; and being now mostly deserted by the family, is not likely to be again renovated. Morton pronounces a high panegyric on this place, and says, it could not be easily surpassed by any seat in Europe. The house was partly built by Sir Christopher Wren, and partly by Hawkesmoor: but since their time it has been considerably altered. In the adjoining *church*, are several curious and interesting *monuments*; among which is a brass plate, with an engraved figure of *Richard Fermor*, who died in January, 1552-3; and as his life was marked by many singularities, so his death was also peculiar; for on the day he died, were assembled at his house a number of his friends and neighbours, of whom he took a serious leave, retired to his closet, and

* It would be a desirable thing to have the question satisfactorily answered, whether there was a rule in any order of knighthood, that statues, commemorative of persons invested with it, should consist of *wood*? or whether in the period to which these are assignable, the art of sculpture in stone, was lost or little practised?

and was found dead in an attitude of devotion.* Sir John Fermor, son of the above, with Maud, his wife, are represented kneeling at a desk, beneath an arch. He died in 1571. Another tomb is distinguished by an effigy of *Sir George Fermor*, son of the last. He is represented in alabaster, recumbent and armed, with picked beard, and small whiskers. A figure of his wife Mary, daughter of Thomas Curzon, lies by his side; and beneath are fifteen small kneeling statues, of seven sons and eight daughters. He died in 1612. Another handsome monument perpetuates the memory of *Sir Hatton Fermor*, who died of a broken leg in 1620. This figure is represented standing with great boots, flapped down, vast whiskers, picked beard, and what is rather singular, a cravat round his neck. The monument was erected in 1662.

Sewardsley Priory, which formerly stood in the parish of that name, was of the Cistertian order, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The building was situated near a wood, at present denominated Nun-Wood, and Chapel-Coppice. In the time of Edward the Sixth, the priory, with its possessions, were granted to Richard Fermor, Esq. The kitchen and a few other vestiges are still visible in a house occupied by a farmer.

Grafton, which gives the title of Duke to the family of Fitzroys, had formerly near it a large mansion,† the seat of the ancient family of Widvilles, of which *Sir Richard de Widville* in the time of Edward the Fourth, was created Earl Rivers, treasurer of the Exchequer, and constable of England, for life; which honors he received in consequence of his daughter Jaquet, being married to that monarch.

Anthony Lord Scales; eldest son of the Earl, who succeeded his father in the honor and estate, was probably born here.

* See Collins's Peerage, Vol. 5, p. 50, edit. 1768.

† This seat, in the rebellion, was the residence of a Lady Crane, and made a garrison for the king. Greater part of the old house has been taken down and reduced to a small building, occupied by a tenant.

here. On the flight of King Edward, he accompanied him into Holland, subsequently returning with him, he was constituted Captain-general of all his Majesty's forces, both by sea and land, and shared in all the successes and reverses of fortune experienced by his sovereign. For these services he was advanced to great honors, and appointed to places of high trust: but being an object of jealousy to Richard Duke of Gloucester, to whom had been committed the guardianship of Prince Edward, during his minority, he was drawn into a snare at Northampton, his person seized, conveyed to Pomfret Castle, in Yorkshire, and there beheaded. He appears to have been a friend to literature, for he translated into English a French work of Jehan de Teonville, "The Sayinges and Dictys of the Philosophers," in which he styles himself Lord of Scales, and of the Isle of Wight, defendour and directour of the siege, Apostolique for the Pope in England, and governor of the Prince of Wales. In the preface he acquaints the reader, that he made the translation in 1473, in his voyage from Southampton to the Julibee, or pardon of St. James, in Spain. Besides this he translated, "The Moral Proverbs of Christian of Pyfe," and the Boke named Cordial, or "Memorare Novissima." The former work was printed by Caxton, at Westminster, in 1477; and the two latter in the following year.

Passenham, a small village, is mentioned in the Saxon Chronicle, as the place, where the army of King Edward lay, in that monarch's expedition against the Danes, while he was fortifying the important station at Towcester.* The chancel of Passenham Church, erected and ornamented at the expence of Sir Robert Banastre, knt. in the year 1626, is worthy of notice. On the south side are six stalls of wainscot, and seven on the north, supported by pillars of the Ionic order, and decorated with

* A quadrangular *entrenchment* still remaining near the Old Ford, was probably raised on that occasion to defend the passage of the river Ouse.

with a variety of carving. Over these stalls were the effigies of the Twelve Apostles, and that of St. Paul. Against the south wall, accompanied with appropriate Latin inscriptions, were figures representative of Nicodemus, Matthew, Luke, and John. On the north side, those of Joseph of Arimathea, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Isaiah.

Shrob-Lodge, in this parish, belonging to one of the five walks in Whittlewood Forest, was lately the seat of that learned and industrious antiquary, Browne Willis, Esq.

Pauler's Pury, Paul's-bury, or Paveli's Pery. In the church of this village is an elegant monument of white marble, inlaid with black, with two figures representative of a man and his wife, complacently looking at each other. The male effigy in armour, curiously cut out of free-stone, reclining its left arm on a pillow; the female resting her right arm upon her veil. It contains a long inscription in Latin, commemorative of *Arthur Nicholas Throgmorton.* In the church is a curious ancient *Font.* A modern mural monument records the name of some of the *Bathurst* family, who formerly had a handsome house in this parish.

Edward Bernard, a celebrated mathematician and astronomer, was born at this place, in the year 1638. After receiving a classical education in Merchant Taylor's school, London, he was admitted a scholar of St. John's College, in Oxford, and afterwards obtained a fellowship in the same society. While Sir Christopher Wren held the Savilian professorship of astronomy in that university, Mr. Bernard was appointed officiating deputy to the professor, and afterwards became successor in the chair to that distinguished character, in the year 1673. His skill in mathematical learning eminently qualified him for fulfilling the duties attached to it, and his merits in this department of literature, were generally acknowledged. The university having formed a plan for publishing, with emendations, corrections, &c. all the ancient mathematicians, both Greek and

Latin, Mr. Bernard was appointed by the delegates to superintend the important work. The scheme, however, was afterwards abandoned, for a part of Euclid only. In 1684, having taken his Doctor's degree in divinity, he was presented with the living of Brightwell, in the county of Berks, where he died in the year 1697. Several astronomical papers, written by him were printed in the Philosophical Transactions. He published a Treatise on Ancient Weights and Measures; Private Devotions; Etymologicum Britannicum; Orbis Eruditi Literatura Charactere Samaritico deducta, &c.

Potter's Pery. This village receives the distinctive appellation from a pottery of coarse earthenware, which is said to be not only the largest, but the most ancient fictile manufactory in this part of the kingdom.* The clay is of a yellow colour, dense, compact, and of great tenacity. The bed extends a considerable distance, but is scarcely in any part of it more than two feet thick, and lies so near the surface as frequently to be turned up in ploughing. The pots made from it are brittle, and liable to crack, particularly in frosty weather.

About a mile from the village of Stoke-Bruerne, is Stoke Park, the seat of Leveson Simon, Esq. The house, which may vie with any structure of the kind in the county, was erected by Francis Crane, Esq. to whom the estate, on which it stands, was given in consideration of money due to him from the crown, in the time of Charles the First. The design was obtained from Italy. The building was begun about the year 1630, and finished before 1636, during which interval, he gave an entertainment here to the king and queen. It consists of two wings, connected with the body by corridores; the columns which support these, Bridges says, were formed of red stone, a colour different from the other parts of the house; but this defect has been lately remedied by the whole front having been cased with handsome white

* Morton's Nat. Hist. of Northamp. p. 71, 548.

white stone, and it now exhibits a pleasing uniformity of colour, corresponding with the regularity of the structure. This Francis Crane, who was the last lay-chancellor of the Order of the Garter, appears to have had an enterprising mind; for under the patronage of King James the First, and encouraged by the Prince of Wales, and Villiers, Marquis of Buckingham, he established a manufacture of tapestry, on an extensive scale, at Mortlake, in Surrey. But the extent of patronage does not appear to have been by any means adequate to the magnitude of the undertaking. For in a letter written to the king by Sir Francis, he complains of the royal negligence; of the non-payment of large sums he had expended for the Marquis; of three hundred pounds, besides carriage, paid for certain drawings, as designs for tapestry, made for Pope Leo the Tenth; the subject the twelve months of the year, by Raphael d' Urbino. And he further states, that his disbursements in the concern, had exceeded upwards of 16,000*l.* of which in return, he had received no more than 2,500*l.* and both his estate and credit were so far exhausted, that without further support, he should be unable to continue the business one month longer. The royal bounty expected, however, was not extended, and the trade, consequently unsupported, soon fell into decay. He died, according to the record on his monument in the church of Stoke Bruerne, in the 82d year of his age, A. D. 1703.

In
Memory of
FRANCIS CRANE, Esq.*
Tenth son of John Crane,
Of Loughton, in the county of Bucks, Esq.
(Servant to Queen Elizabeth, King James, King Charles the First.
And chief of the green-cloth, to King Charles the Second,)
And of Mary Crane, eldest daughter
Of Sir Thos. Tresham, of Newton,
In this county.



* From this it appears that he is erroneously called *Sir* Francis by Bridges, in the Hist. of Northamp. Vol. 1, p. 328.

## WYMERSLEY HUNDRED,

Has on the north a natural boundary in the river Nen, and on the east adjoins the county of Buckingham. At the time of the survey contained in Domesday Book, this district was divided into two hundreds; one called Cosentreu, and the other Wimersle. How long the distinction subsisted, it is difficult to determine; but in the time of Henry the Second, both portions were united; and went under their present appellation. This Hundred contains the parishes of *Blisworth, Brafield* on the Green, *Castle-Ashby, Cogenhoe, Collingtree, Courtenhall, Denton, Grendon, Hardingstone, Horton, Houghton* Great, *Houghton* Little, *Milton Malzor, Piddington,* including the hamlet of Hackleston, *Preston Deanery, Quinton, Rothers-Thorpe, Whiston, Wooton,* and *Yardley Hastings.*

Castle Ashby, the seat of the Earl of Northampton, is seated near the northern extremity of Yardley Chase, through which is a wide avenue of above three miles in length, directly to the south front of the mansion. This is a large pile, standing on the brow of a gentle eminence, and commanding to the north, east, and west, a wide tract of inclosed grazing country. The house evidently occupies the site of a more ancient, and probably castellated edifice: but no part of the present building was erected before the reign of Elizabeth. Indeed, it is said to have been begun by Henry, Lord Compton, who was created a Baron in the fourteenth year of that Queen's reign. Considerable additions have been since made, and the house has been wholly renovated, and adapted to the comforts of refined society, by the present noble proprietor. This mansion surrounds a large quadrangular court; having a screen of two stories, on the southern side, erected from a design by Inigo Jones. This consists of a piazza at bottom, and a long gallery over it: the exterior dressings of which are truly in the style of Jones; rusticated columns, decorated frieze, pilastres, &c.

At

At the south-east and south-west angles of the court, are two lofty octangular towers; the parapets of which, as also the whole parapet of the court elevation, are formed by stones cut in the shape of letters. They are ranged to repeat this text, "NISI DOMINUS ÆDIFICAVERIT DOMUM, IN VANUM LABORAVERUNT QUI ÆDIFICANT EAM." In the ballustrades of the turrets are the dates of 1625, and 1635; marking the time when the screen was built, and the upper parts of the house finished. On the opposite side of the court to the entrance screen, is the *great Hall*, a lofty handsome apartment, which contains several family portraits, &c. and has a gallery at each end. Among the pictures are portraits of BISHOP COMPTON, who died in 1713, aged 88; Sir STEPHEN FOX; a family piece by West, of the late Earl of Northampton, his Lady, and two Children, &c. Here is also a portrait of EDWARD LYE, who began the Saxon Dictionary, afterwards finished and published by Manning. He was rector of Yardley-Hastings, where he died in 1767. Here is a portrait of SPENCER, second Earl of Northampton, in armour. This nobleman particularly distinguished himself in the perilous time of Charles the First; having relinquished a life of ease, in an advanced age, he raised a regiment of foot and a troop of horse at his own expence, and with these encountered dangers and hardships in fighting for his king. In whose cause he was killed at the battle of Hopton Heath, March 19, 1642-3. In other apartments are numerous portraits, &c. among which is a very curious and finely painted head of the celebrated GEORGE VILLIERS, *Duke of Buckingham*, who was stabbed by Felton. In the long gallery are portraits of JOHN TALBOT, *Earl of Shrewsbury*,* and MARGARET his COUNTESS. These are painted on board, and are curious, as specimens of the art of painting, dresses, &c. in the time of Henry the Sixth. Talbot was a distinguished hero in the wars of France, and it is related of him

 that

* A portrait of this nobleman has been badly engraved for Lodge's "Illustrations of English History," which contains many curious particulars respecting the Talbot family. Another of him, equally incorrect, is given in Pennant's "Tour from Chester to London."

that he was victorious in no less than forty battles and skirmishes. It is generally related, that he was killed at the siege of Chastillon, after he had taken Bourdeaux, though his epitaph states that he was slain in battle at the latter place. He was above eighty years of age at that time. Walpole ranks these two pictures among the most ancient examples of oil painting in England. The libraries contain many curious books; and in a large drawing room up stairs, is an immense chimney piece of marble dug from the county. The *Cellars* are large, lofty, and peculiarly adapted to contain a vast stock of ales, wines, &c. They are formed like the crypts of churches; being supported on columns, and ribbed arches. A large lake in the park, and the artificial plantations were formed by Brown.

The Church nearly adjoins the house, and is remarkable for its neatness, an ancient curious porch on the north side, and an old altar tomb, with a statue of a cross-legged knight, in chain armour. On the floor of the chancel is a fine brass, with an engraved figure of a priest, or monk, with a gown, ornamented with representations of ten saints.

Whiston, north of Castle-Ashby, is entitled to particular notice for its elegant and uniform Church. This stands proudly elevated on the brow of a hill, embosomed in trees, and completely detached from any other buildings. It consists of a nave, two ailes, chancel, and western tower: the whole of which is built in one uniform style. Bridges appears to have discovered an inscription among the fragments of painted glass in the windows, stating that the church was erected by *Anthony Catesby*, Esq. lord of the manor, Isabel his wife, and John their son, in the year 1534. This was the time when church architecture, like monachism, was approaching its dissolution: but the building here alluded to, does not display any marks of it, for the whole is in the true, and almost best, style of the Tudor age. The tower is handsome, and appropriately decorated with panelling, graduated buttresses, windows with tracery, and clustered pinnacles of four at each angle, with crockets,

finials, &c. In the third tier are the arms of Henry the Eighth, beneath a double arched window, with a square head. The nave is divided from the ailes by four arches on each side, supported by clustered columns, with panelling, tracery, and shields in the spandrils. The south porch is similarly ornamented. Some interesting monuments are preserved within this shell of fine architecture. In the chancel is a mural tomb, with busts of a man and woman: also basso-relievos of two young women, and a boy and girl. This commemorates Sir JOHN CATESBY, Knt. of Arthingworth, who died in 1485: Sir HUMPHREY CATESBY, Knt. who died 1503: ANTHONY CATESBY, the founder of this church, who died 1583: and others of the same family. Against the south wall is a neat modern mural tablet, with a basso-relievo of a Cupid weeping and leaning on an extinguished torch, executed by Nollekins, R.A: to commemorate the death of *Mary, wife of the Honorable William Henry Irby.* In the chancel is an inscription to the memory of "*Gulielmus Irby, Baron de Boston,*" who died in 1769, aged 49.

At COURTENHALL, a village on the western border of Salcey Forest, is a *Free-School,* which was founded by Sir *Samuel Jones,* and endowed with 80*l.* per annum for the master, and 20*l.* for the usher. The same person also left 500*l.* for building the schoolhouse, &c., and 500*l.* for repairing the church. In the latter is a *monument,* "in Italian marble," to his memory, with effigies of Sir Samuel and his Lady, both in kneeling postures. He died in 1762, aged 63. In this church were also interred Mr. *Richard Lane,* and Elizabeth his wife, parents of Lord KEEPER LANE. This gentleman appears to have been a native of Courtenhall, and became a conspicuous character in the momentous age of Charles the First, In 1630 he was called to the bar, and chosen lent reader to the society of the Middle Temple, London. Thomas, Earl of Strafford, having been impeached by the long parliament of high treason in the year 1640, Mr. Lane was considered the most competent person to conduct the Earl's defence. Soon afterwards he was made attorney-general to

Prince Charles; but finding the tide of affairs running in a strong current against royalty, he left his chambers, furniture, library, &c. to the care of a friend, the well known *Bulstrode Whitelock, Esq.* and retired to Oxford, where King Charles then kept his court; and in 1643 was made a serjeant at law, knighted, appointed to be chief baron of the Exchequer, and one of his majesty's most honorable privy-council. The following year he was in the commission for the treaty of Uxbridge; and in 1645 had the great seal delivered to his custody. He was one of the commissioners appointed by the king to treat upon terms for the surrender of Oxford; after which, to escape the resentment of the Parliament, he fled into France, where he died in the year 1650. He wrote Reports of Proceedings in the Court of Exchequer, from the third to the ninth of James the First. These were printed in 1657.

Hunsborough, an *encampment* in the parish of Hardingstone, lies at the distance of above a mile south-west of Northampton, near the summit of a hill, which commands an extensive view over the surrounding country. The fortification is of an oval form, encompassed with a double vallum and single foss, including an area of about one acre. The foss, which appears to have been much larger, is at present twelve feet wide, and twenty deep, over which the entrance was to the south. From the form, and other circumstances, Morton concludes, that it was originally a summer camp belonging to the marauding Danes.

At Delapre, or De-la-Pre, in this parish, was a *Convent* for nuns of the Cluniac order. It was founded in the reign of Stephen, by Simon de Liz, junior, earl of Northampton, the annual revenues of which were valued, on the Dissolution, at 119*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* In the cemetery belonging to this convent, Leland informs us, * that many of the soldiers were buried, who fell in the

* Itinerary, Vol. I. f. 9.

the sanguinary conflict which took place in the fields of Hardingstone, in the thirty-eighth year of Henry the Sixth's reign. This fight is commonly called the battle of Northampton; in which the Duke of Buckingham, with other noblemen, were killed, and the King taken prisoner. A modern house, of varied architecture, has been raised from the ruins, and on the site of the abbey. It now belongs to Edward Bouverie, Esq.

Near the south-western corner of the park, on the side of the great turnpike road, is one of those monumental memorials which King Edward the First erected to the memory of his consort, Queen Eleanor. This is called the QUEEN'S CROSS, and may be considered as a structure, in the execution of which, the architect and sculptor were almost equally concerned, and equally interested. Indeed, at the time this was erected, we may fairly conclude, that both professions were combined in the same person. Vertue and Walpole were inclined to attribute the design and execution of this cross, and those at Geddington, Waltham, &c. to Peter *Cavallini*, a Roman sculptor; but their opinion is disputed by Pilkington, Bromley, and some other writers. At present this point is merely a subject of conjecture: not so the peculiar styles of sculpture, and architecture displayed in these interesting and truly valuable examples of ancient art. Both these are highly admirable in their respective classes; and when in a perfect state, the whole cross must have been an object of peculiar beauty and admiration. It is still an interesting and picturesque structure. The annexed print displays the general form and arrangement of parts: but it fails, from the smallness of the scale, in representing the architectural details.* "Standing on eight steps, in an open space, and on elevated ground, it assumes a very imposing appearance. Above the steps it is divided

* Accurate *plans* of the three tiers, or stories, with a view, and description of this cross; also views of those at Geddington, and Waltham, with a copious *Essay on the forms, uses, &c. of ancient stone crosses*, will be found in the first volume of the Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain.

divided into three stories, the lower of which has eight faces, separated by buttresses at the angles. Each face is ornamented with a pointed arch, having a central mullion pilaster, with tracery, and the whole surmounted by a purfled pediment. Two shields are also attached to each face, charged with the arms of England and Ponthieu singly, and those of Castile and Leon quarterly. A carved book is also affixed to four of the sides."* The second, or next tier upwards, consists of open canopies, with pillars, pediments, &c. and four statues; one of which, at least, was intended as an effigy of the Queen. Above this is a diminished square compartment, ornamented with tracery, having crocketed pinnacles, pediments, &c. The whole is surmounted with a single shaft of stone, in the form of a cross. This structure, like many others in the country, has been much injured and disfigured by officious, but tasteless persons in repairs and restortion; one of the planners of which has very unwisely affixed his name, thus " Rursus emendat, et restaurat. Georgii III. regis 2do. Domini 1762, N. *Baylis.*" This is not all; for a large white marble tablet, with gorgeous wreaths, &c. over it, displays, in a very obtrusive manner, the following Latin inscription: whereby the magistrates of the county seemed determined to emblazon their own deed, by sacrificing not only the *effect*, but even injuring the design and masonry of the building they profess to restore.

" In perpetuam Amoris conjugalis memoriam,
Hoc Eleanoræ Reginæ Monumentum,
Vetustate pene collapsum, restaurari voluit,
Honorabilis Justiciariorum caetus
Comitatus Northamptoniæ
MDCCXIII
Anno illo felicissimo
In quo ANNA,
Grande Britanniæ suæ Decus
Potentissima Oppressorum Vindex

Pacis

* Architectural Antiquities, Vol. 1.

Pacis Bellique Arbitra
Post Germaniam liberatam,
Belgiam præsidiis munitam
Gallos plus vice decima profligatos
Suis Sociorumq; armis,
Vincendi modum statuit;
Et Europæ in libertatem vindicatæ
PACEM restituit."

About half a mile east of Queen's Cross is the village of HARDINGSTONE, pleasantly and healthfully seated on the brow of a hill: and thence commanding some extensive views. The town of Northampton, particularly, is seen from some parts of this village, spreading over the brow, and down the slope of an opposite hill; and, interspersed with churches and other public buildings, assumes rather a grand and imposing appearance. In the church are some *monuments* to the *Harveys,* who formerly possessed an old manor house in the village.

In Harvey's aile in the church, is a monument of alabaster, with pillars of black marble, and figures in several partitions: also two alabaster statues of a man and woman kneeling. "To the pious memory of STEPHEN HARVEY, Esq. Auditor of the Duchy of Lancaster," who died Nov. 8, 1606. Another inscription records the name and memory of "SIR FRANCIS HARVEY, Knt. one of the Judges of the Common Pleas," who died Aug. 2, 1632. Others of the same family were interred here, whose names and offices are recorded: but that of JAMES HARVEY, author of the "Meditations," and other literary works, does not occur among them. He was, however, of this family, and born here in 1714. The publication already named has been extremely popular, and is still read with avidity by young persons, and also by some of particular religious sentiments. Besides the "Meditations and Contemplations among the Tombs, Flower Garden," &c. Harvey was author of "Theron and Aspasio, or Dialogues and Letters," &c. The whole of his works were published in 7 vols. 8vo. 1796, to which is prefixed a Memoir of

of his Life. He was first engaged as curate to his father; but soon removed to Bideford, in Devonshire: returning home, he succeeded his parent in the livings of Weston-Favel and Collingtree, in this county. He died of a consumption in 1758, and was buried at Weston-favel church-yard.

In the church of Hardingstone are several monumental records to different persons of the *Tate* family, also a fine tomb by Rysbrack, to the memory of Mr. Clarke.

The village of COLLINGTREE, near the western extremity of this hundred, was the birth-place of the Rev. WILLIAM WOOD, F. L. S. who was born on the 29th of May, 1745, and died at Leeds on the 1st of April, 1808. Biography is never more usefully or laudably employed than in narrating the memoirs of those persons who by pre-eminence of genius have advanced themselves from an humble birth to honorable celebrity. Whilst the writer is performing this task, he is administering to the best feelings of the human heart, and is laying before the world such an example as cannot fail to rouse emulation, and gratify benevolence. This is evinced in the life of Mr. Wood, who manifested powerful talents, and an amiable disposition. Under the tuition of the Rev. Drs. Savage, Kippis, and Rees, he acquired a classical education, and what is more valuable, a habit of philosophizing and thinking. According to an intelligent biographer, he "soon distinguished himself by his love of knowledge, his ardour in the pursuit of it, and his promptness and facility in acquiring it."* As a public character, Mr. Wood, is chiefly known as the writer of various articles in Dr. Rees's Cyclopædia: and by several sermons, the latter of which are distinguished by a simplicity, perspicuity, and persuasiveness of eloquence, which could not fail to engage the heart, and improve the head of those who heard them. As a preacher he was much admired by his congregation; and was also peculiarly esteemed by a large circle of immediate friends, and distant correspondents. In his professional

* See Athenæum for May, 1808, p. 489.

professional duty of a Christian minister he was first engaged at Stamford, in Lincolnshire, whence he removed to Ipswich; and when Dr. Priestley was employed as Librarian to the Marquis of Lansdown, and tutor to Lord Henry Petty, Mr. Wood was deemed a proper person to fill that eminent man's pulpit. This was at once honorable to Mr. Wood, and proved equally so to the discriminating choice of the unitarian congregation of Leeds; as minister of whom he continued from 1773 to the lamented period of death, "with uninterrupted harmony and mutual regard!" "It appears that the subject of this memoir was no ordinary man. His mind was of no common character; his intellectual powers were of the first order; his faculties were masculine and vigorous; his understanding was comprehensive, clear, and enlightened; his imagination vivid and powerful; his judgment solid and profound." The mind thus formed, and thus disposed, must be calculated to effect great and good purposes; and such appears to have been the constant object of Mr. Wood's life and actions. In promulgating enlightened and liberal principles respecting politics and theological doctrines, he was strenuous and active; for he despised bigotry in one, and party intrigue in the other. The life of such a man cannot be too often related to the listening world, as it may excite emulation in the good heart, and produce contrition in that prone to vice.

In Horton Church is a fine *monument* to the memory of William Lord Parre, or Par, who is represented by a recumbent statue, in alabaster: by the side of which is another of his Lady, Mary Salusbury. The male figure appears in armour, with a collar of S. S. and beneath its head is a helmet. This nobleman obtained the manor of Horton by his marriage: and being uncle to Queen Catherine Parre, was appointed her chamberlain; and during the Queen's regency, on the King's expedition to France, in 1544, Lord Parre was nominated one of her Majesty's Privy Council. He died in 1546.

A fine *brass* on the floor displays the figures of Roger Salusbury,

Salusbury, and his two wives. He died in 1492.* Near the church is

Horton House, the seat of Sir Robert Gunning, Bart. K. B. This estate has been successively possessed by the Salusburys already named, Parrs, Lanes, Montagues, from whom it descended to the Earl of Halifax, who was succeeded by Lord Huntingbroke, and he by the present proprietor. The House, a large handsome structure, with a fine front towards the east, is seated in a park, which abounds with noble forest trees, and is enlivened with a broad piece of water.

At Horton was born, in 1661, Charles Montague, the first *Earl of Halifax*, who was first a king's scholar in Westminster school, whence he was elected to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he soon distinguished himself by profound erudition. Though much engaged in politics, with the assistance of Prior, he produced a poem, intitled, "The Country Mouse, and the City Mouse," with the intention of ridiculing a piece, written by Dryden in favour of the Romish church, called "The Hind and Panther." The satire was pointed and happily applied, and was considered to possess so much merit, and to have produced so good an effect, that at the revolution the author was rewarded with a pension from Government, made a Commissioner of the Treasury in 1691, and three years afterwards Chancellor of the Exchequer. In 1698 he was appointed first Commissioner of the Treasury, and in 1700 advanced to the peerage, by the style and title of Baron Halifax. On the accession of George the First to the throne he was created Earl of Halifax, and installed one of the Knights of the Garter. His Lordship, who died in 1715, was, during his life-time, considered the Macænas of the age: he was the patron of Addison, and the intimate friend of Swift, Pope, and several of the most eminent writers of that period.

SPELHOE

* Roger Salusbury directed by his will, dated April 14, 1490, that his body should be buried in the church of the Grey Friars, at Northampton, so also William Salusbury his son, in 1498. Leland states that two of the Salusbury's were buried there.

## SPELHOE HUNDRED

Though containing the county town, derives its name from a *bush* in Weston-Favell field. This district has two rivers for natural boundaries, to the south and west. It is wholly inclosed, highly cultivated, and abounds with seats and villas. Within it was formerly Moulton Park, which belonged to the crown, and was under the care of a keeper appointed by the king. The house is now occupied by a farmer, the park is surrounded by a wall, and the whole deemed extra-parochial. This hundred contains, besides the town of *Northampton*, the following parishes. *Abingdon*, *Great Billing*, *Little Billing*, *Boughton*, *Kings-thorpe*, *Moulton*, *Overstone*, *Pitsford*, *Spratton*, and *Weston-favell.*

At Abingdon, a small village, east of Northampton, is the seat of John Harvey Thursby, Esq.; the house, a plain commodious edifice, is surrounded by a small walled park. This estate was obtained by Robert Bernard by his marriage with the heiress of Sir Nicholas Lyllyng in the reign of Henry the Fifth, and continued in that family till 1671, when Sir John Bernard, Bart. sold it to William Thursby, Esq. The south side of the church is almost covered with ivy; and when viewed from the village green, in conjunction with Mr. Thursby's house, forms a singularly rural and picturesque scene. In the chancel are several memorials of the Bernards and Thursbys, and two in the north chapel for Sir Edmund Hampden, Knt. who died in 1627, and his wife, the relict of Baldwin Bernard, Esq. On a brass plate near the communion table, is the following poetical tribute to their youngest son, Justinian Hampden.

Thy memory, my little boy,
Shall ever check thy father's joy;
This little cell shall ne'er be free
From mournful thoughts to dwell with thee,

Until

Until the Almighty call me thither,
Where we in joy shall meet together.
Here sleeps my babe, in silence, Heaven his rest,
For God takes soonest whom he loveth best.

About three miles east of Northampton is GREAT BILLING, the manor of which, with an "handsome old house," were possessed, for many generations, by the Earls of Thomond. From that family the whole descended to Mr. Blackwell, M. P. for Northampton. The estate was subsequently the property of Lord John Cavendish, who rebuilt the mansion house in a handsome style, with two fronts, &c. Here that nobleman spent the latter part of an active senatorial life in privacy and retirement. After his decease, the manor, &c. was purchased by Robert Carey Elwes, Esq. son-in-law of Lord Yarborough. In the chancel is the burial-place, though long since disused, of the O'Brians, over which a large monument of black and white marble, more distinguished for its bulk than its elegance, was erected by Sarah, Countess Dowager of Thomond "in memory of her lord, HENRY, EARL and GOVERNOR OF THOMOND, in the kingdom of Ireland, who died at his seat at Billing, the second of May, 1691, in the seventy-third year of his age." His son, Henry Horatio, Lord O'Brien, and Baron of Ibrickan, was, according to this inscription, "by special providence, and the great prudence and foresight of the said Earl and Countess, in the seventeenth year of his age, most happily married to Lady Henrietta, second daughter to the noble Lord Henry, Duke of Beaufort." He died at Chelsea of the small-pox, in his twenty-first year.

Here is a small *alms-house* for one man and four women, founded by John Freeman, Esq. by will, in the reign of James the First.

SIR ISAAC WAKE, who was appointed ambassador by James the First, to Venice, Savoy, and other states, was the son of the Rev. Arthur Wake, rector of this parish. He was educated at Merton-College, Oxford, and was chosen public orator, and Member of Parliament for the University, in 1623. He was eminent

for his learning, ingenuity, and elocution; and was author of several orations and discourses. He died at Paris in the king's service, in 1632; and was interred in the chapel of Dover Castle.

At a short distance to the west, is situated *Little Billing*, the property and residence of the Longevilles, from the time of Edward the Second to that of Charles the First. In the latter reign lived Sir *Edward Longeville*, who was the last person that possessed this manor. Leland states that the mansion of the Longevilles "yet remaineth at Billing, and there lai divers of them buried." Bridges is unusually minute in describing the state of the ruined house. "The first story," he says, is "supported with broad arches, where is the appearance of a chapel. The door-cases, of Harlestone freestone, are thick and large; and at the south end is a turret with a stair-case leading up to the leads. A part of it is embattled. In the yard is a farm-house, made out of the ruins adjoining to the ruinous part." A very small portion of this edifice now remains. Various authors have placed a religious house here; and Buck engraved a print of the ruins, which he called a "*Cistercian Priory.*" Bridges, asserts there never was any monastic establishment here. Gough describes the house as a curious example of ancient architecture.

Boughton, four miles north of Northampton, was transmitted by intermarriages from the Green's and Vaux's to Sir John Briscoe, Bart. who mortgaged it to Lord Ashburnham, by whom it was sold to the Earl of Strafford; and that title becoming extinct, on the demise of the late earl, this portion of his property devolved to Richard William Howard Vyse, Esq. M. P. for Beverley, and son of General Vyse. The manor-house is irregular and antiquated, but not very extensive, part having been taken down by Sir John Briscoe; the remainder is now undergoing the same fate; but it is understood that Mr. Vyse intends to erect a new one. The situation is certainly inviting, the

park being finely wooded, and capable of considerable improvement.

In the twenty-seventh year of Edward the Third, Sir Henry Green "obtained for himself and his heirs the grant of a fair to be held yearly in this manor for the space of three days, beginning upon the vigil of the nativity of Saint John the Baptist, and ending the day after it." Since that time, the *fair* at *Boughton,* has become the most celebrated in this part of the kingdom, and is annually resorted to by a vast concourse of persons, either for pleasure or business. The first day is principally for wooden-ware of every description: on the second the neighbouring families of distinction breakfast in the tea booth, and mingle in the rustic holiday; and the last day is appropriated for the sale of horses and cattle. It is kept on the *green,* an open common half a mile south of the village, where temporary booths for refreshment, and rows of stalls for different species of merchandize, are erected.

At the extremity of this green stands the ruins of the old *parochial church.* Grose has given a view of it, in his antiquities, with the tower and an octagonal spire, both of which fell down some years ago, and the roofless body alone remains. The inhabitants still bury in the church-yard; but there is a chapel in the village, the south door of which bears the date of 1599.

Between this place and Northampton, is the pleasant village of KINGSTHORPE, which, from time immemorial, has been a royal demesne. A certain number of the freeholders under the payment of a specified annual rent to the crown's grantee, hold the manor in trust for the town; all the freeholders participate in the benefits attached to it, and include in their privileges, exemption from toll.

A bailiff was formerly appointed, but this office has long since been dispensed with. The trustees, or freeholders, transact their business in a small town-house erected for that purpose, by a Lady Pritchard. Their seal is a crowned head between

tween two fleurs-de-lis, with this inscription round it. SIGILLUM COMMUNE KINGSTHORP.

At the entrance of the village from Northampton, stood the *Hospital of St. David*, or as it is styled in some records, of the Holy Trinity. It was founded in 1200, at the instance of Peter de Northampton, and Henry his son, rector of this parish, and with the approbation of the Prior of St. Andrew, who granted the site, and in whom was vested the appointment of the master. The clear yearly rental at the Dissolution was 24*l.* 6*s.* Phillip and Mary gave it to Hugh Zelly for life. It consisted of one large range of buildings, containing three rows of beds for the poor, the sick, and the stranger, with one chapel dedicated to St. David, and another to the Holy Trinity. Bridges speaks of the ruins, but nothing can now be traced, excepting an arch or two in some cottage-walls. In this lordship are quarries of considerable extent and local celebrity. The stone is of a soft texture, hardens by exposure to the atmosphere, and is of a delicately white tint.

The Church, though spacious, and enjoying all parochial rites, is merely a chapel to St. Peter's in Northampton, being rated with it in taxation, and served by the same incumbent.

## NORTHAMPTON

THE principal town of the county, is memorable in the annals of political and local history, for the number of councils and synods held here; for its formidable ancient castle, with the provincial earls; also for numerous monastic foundations, military events, and lastly its modern improvements, and pleasantness of situation as a place of business or retirement. In narrating its history, it will not only be unnecessary, but extraneous and frivolous to dwell on the legendary stories that have been related and printed, respecting the first settlement made here, and the inhabitants who formed it. It is stated, however, that a town was formed at this place during the Anglo-Saxon dynasty, and that the same was attacked, plundered, and burnt

by the Danes, in their different predatory incursions into this part of the island. The Northumbrians, under Earl Morcar, took possession of this town in the year 1064; and in the genuine spirit of savage warriors, murdered many of the inhabitants, burnt the houses, "carried away thousands of cattle, and multitudes of prisoners." According to records there were then 60 burgesses in the king's lordship, and 60 houses: but at the era of the Norman Conquest, 14 of the latter were waste. By the Domesday Survey, it appears there were only 40 burgesses in North-hamtune then. "William the Conqueror gave to *Simon St. Liz*, a noble Norman, the town of Northampton, and the whole Hundred of *Falkely*, (Fawsley) then valued at forty pounds per annum, to provide shoes for his horses."* In 1106, the Saxon Chronicle states, that Robert, Duke of Normandy, had an interview here with his brother King Henry the First, to accommodate the differences then subsisting between them. In his twenty-third year, that monarch and his court kept the festival of Easter at Northampton, with all the pomp and state peculiar to that age; and in the thirty-first year of the same reign, a Parliament was held in this town, when the nobles swore fealty to the Empress Maud, on whom the king had settled the right of succession. In 1138, King Stephen, in order to attach the clergy to his interest, a measure in those days so essentially necessary, summoned a council to meet him at Northampton, at which all the bishops, abbots, and barons of the realm attended, for the purpose of making promotions in the church. In 1144 Stephen held his court here, when Ranulf, Earl of Chester, who came to tender his services, was detained as a prisoner till he had surrendered the Castle of Lincoln, and other fortresses, as security for his allegiance, he being suspected of conspiring, with the Duke of Normandy, against the king. When the celebrated statutes of Clarendon were established, 10 Henry II, for the good order of the kingdom, and for the better defining the boundaries of ecclesiastical jurisdiction;

* "*Fragmenta Antiquitatis.*" by Beckwith, 8vo. p. 190.

tion; and Archbishop Becket alone refused his assent, (a refusal attended with a train of evils, vexatious to the king, and fatal to the prelate;) a council of the states was convened at Northampton, before whom the archbishop was summoned to appear, and answer to the charges of contumacy, perjury, &c. which should then be exhibited against him. In the twentieth year of this reign, Anketil Mallore, who supported Prince Henry's unnatural rebellion, marched with a considerable force from Leicester to Northampton; where, having defeated the royalists, he plundered the town, and returned to Leicester with his booty, accompanied by nearly two hundred prisoners. In the twenty-sixth year of this Monarch's reign, a convention of the barons and prelates was assembled here to amend, confirm, and enforce the constitutions of Clarendon. By this council the kingdom was divided into six circuits; and justices itinerant were assigned to each. From the formation of this convention, the advice of the knights and burgesses being required, as well as that of the nobles and prelates, it has been considered as the model by which parliaments have been constituted in succeeding times. The King of Scotland, with the bishops and abbots of that kingdom, attended this council to profess their subjection to the Church of England. In the 10th of Richard I. Geoffrey Fitzwalter paid 40*s.* to be discharged from the inspection of the *coinage* here: this is the first official mention of a Mint at Northampton, though there are reasons to believe it of greater antiquity. How long it subsisted is uncertain, but mention is made of it in the two succeeding reigns. On the death of King Richard, John his successor being then in Normandy, a great council of nobles assembled in this town, and were prevailed on by the adherents of the new Monarch, to take an oath of fealty to him, and support his claim to the crown.

King John, in the tenth year of his reign, having been displeased with the citizens of London, commanded the exchequer to be removed to Northampton. In his thirteenth year, in a council of lay nobles convened here, the King met the Pope's Nuncios, Pandulph and Durand, in order to adjust those differences

which had long subsisted between him and the Holy See. The King made large concessions; but as he would not, or could not, restore to the clergy their confiscated effects, the treaty was broken off, and the King was solemnly excommunicated by the Legates. During the reign of Henry the Third Northampton was frequently honored with his residence and particular marks of his favor: and in the war between that King and the confederate Barons, it was alternately besieged and possessed by each of the contending parties. About this time a kind of *University* was established here, consisting of students who at different times and from various causes had deserted Oxford. The new seminary at first was countenanced by the King; but the scholars having taken a decided part in favor of the Barons, were commanded to return to Oxford. A similar emigration took place from the university of Cambridge; but was soon superseded by a royal mandate, which compelled the students to return to their old seminaries; and further provided that no university should ever be established here. It is, however, a manifest indication of the importance attached to Northampton, that both the universities should make choice of this place as their asylum and abode.

On Good Friday, in the seventh year of Edward the First the Jews residing in this town crucified a Christian boy, who fortunately survived their cruelty: for this atrocious act, fifty of them were drawn at horses' tails and publickly hanged. In the preceding year three hundred had been hanged for clipping the coin. These and other enormities rendered the Jews so odious, that in the eighteenth year of this reign a statute was passed for their total expulsion from the kingdom, and for the confiscation of their property. Edward the First frequently resided at Northampton in great splendor: and on his death a parliament was held here to settle the ceremonial of his burial, and the marriage and coronation of his successor. Another parliament met here in 1317, in which an imposter, John Poydras, son of a tanner at Exeter, was brought to trial for affirming that he was the real son of Edward the First, and that the

King was a carter's son, and substituted at nurse in his stead: producing no evidence however in support of his assertions, he was condemned and executed.

In the eleventh year of King Edward the Third, the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of Northampton obtained the royal licence to hold an annual fair for twenty-eight days; which fair is now disused. In this reign several parliaments were held here. The last that assembled at Northampton was, 4 Richard II. when the poll-tax was levied, which occasioned the rebellion, wherein Walter Tyler was the chief.

The next memorable event respecting this town was a decisive *battle* fought in its vicinity between the Yorkists and Lancastrians, 38 Henry VI. when that unfortunate Monarch was made prisoner. Northampton was visited by Queen Elizabeth in 1563, and by King Charles the First in 1634: it was ravaged by the plague in 1637; and in 1642 was seized by the parliamentary forces, by whom it was fortified: the south and west bridges being converted into drawbridges, and additional works thrown up in the defenceless places. In the north-east part of the town, parts of a foss and a bastion of earth are yet visible. The town suffered greatly by a flood, May 6, 1663.

Northampton has sustained some very severe losses by *fire;* but these have ultimately proved beneficial to the place; for the uniformity and substantial character of the houses, width of the streets, and general arrangement of the town, are all to be attributed to those calamitous events. According to Leland's statement most of the houses were made of *wood* at his time. On Midsummer-day, 1566, a fire destroyed several houses: but the most memorable occurrence of this nature was in the year 1675, when the greater part of the town was consumed, and many of the poorer inhabitants reduced to great distress. The general loss of property was calculated at 150,000*l.* Above 600 dwelling-houses were then burnt, and more than 700 families thereby deprived of their habitations and property. A subscription was soon instituted, and it appears, by a list of be-

nefactions, that above 20,000*l.* were raised for the sufferers.* On that occasion the following sums were given by the persons, and from the places here specified: Earl of Northampton, and Earl of Sunderland, 120*l.* each; Lord Arlington, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry; Sir William Farmer, Sir William Langham, George Holman, Esq. and Paul Wentworth, Esq. 100*l.* each. The city of London collected and contributed 5000*l.*; the town of Manchester, 155*l.*; Nottingham 150*l.*; Oxford University, 450*l.*; the city, 124*l.*; Stratford on Avon, 180*l.*; Warwick, 171*l.*; York, 100*l.*; Lincoln, 118*l.*; Derby, 150*l.*; Cambridge University, 286*l.*; town, 85*l.*; Coventry, 200*l.*; Banbury, 110*l.* In the year after the fire it is stated that 150 houses were rebuilt.

The town of Northampton was formerly surrounded by *embattled walls*, and was defended by a large fortress, or CASTLE, and by bastion towers. In the walls were four *Gate-houses*, named from their relative situations, East-Gate, West-Gate, North-Gate, and South-Gate. Those towards the South, North, and West, had rooms or dwellings over them, and that to the east, according to Bridges, "was the fairest of all," being lofty, and embellished with shields of arms, and other ornaments. Southward of this was a smaller gate, or postern, called the *Durn-Gate*. By an inquisition, taken in the time of King Edward the First, it appears that the walls were embattled; and at different places had steps to ascend them. Like the walls round the city of Chester, these served for a public walk; where the infirm and indisposed inhabitants were accustomed to "take the air." They also constituted the best footpath in winter, from one extremity of the town to another. This

* Pennant asserts, that "twenty-five thousand pounds were collected by briefs and private charity; and the king gave 1000 tons of timber out of Whittlebury Forest, and remitted the duty of chimney-money for seven years." It may be deemed curious to remark, that the general subscription, raised on account of the memorable fire of London, did not exceed 18,000*l.*

This walk is reported to have been wide enough for six persons to walk abreast. Leland mentions the walls and Gates as standing when he visited Northampton. The same topographer says,

"The CASTEL standeth hard by the West-gate, and hath a large kepe. The area of the resideu is very large, and bulle-warkes of yerth be made afore the castelle-gate.*" That some fortress was erected at Northampton before the Norman Conquest, may be inferred from the events that have occurred here during the Saxon and Danish dynasties: but of that building no accounts have descended to the present times. It is however recorded, that Simon De Senliz, or St. Liz, the first Earl of Northampton of that name, erected a castle here, in the reign of William the Conqueror; but as no mention is made of it in Domesday Book, it appears not to have been completed till after that survey was taken. It was situated on an eminence *without* the west gate of the town; and was defended on three sides by a deep trench, or foss, whilst a branch of the river Nen served as a natural barrier on the western side. In Henry the Second's reign, it was possessed by the Crown; and was afterwards entrusted to some constable or castellan appointed by the sovereign. But in the civil war of 1264, between Henry the Third and his nobles, we find it in the occupation of the confederate Barons, under the banner of the Earl of Leicester, whose son Simon de Montford was then its Governor. The king having received considerable reinforcements from the northern barons, his adherents besieged the Castle with great vigour: but the admirable situation and strength of the fortress, with the undaunted courage of the garrison, composed of the finest troops in the service of the Earl, under the direction of officers of distinguished skill and valour, baffled all the efforts of the royal troops, and convinced them that force was totally inadequate to their arduous enterprise. At length recourse was had to a stratagem, not altogether just or manly in principle, but which effec-

* Itinerary, Vol. I. p. 9.

effectually served their purpose. While the barons were engaged in a parley, under pretence of negociation, a chosen body of the royal forces was dispatched to make a breach in the walls at the opposite extremity of the town. The plan succeeded: the garrison thus taken by surprize, were, notwithstanding a brilliant display of courage, completely discomfited, and surrendered themselves prisoners of war: in this capitulation, were included fourteen of the most potent barons and knights-bannerets, and forty inferior knights. The castle thus reverted to the Crown, till in the third year of Edward the Third, Thomas Wake, then sheriff, claimed the custody of it, as annexed to the county, and belonging to his jurisdiction; and it being found, by inquisition then taken, to have been immemorially attached to that office, it was ordered to be given up, to be held by the said sheriff and his successors. Within the castle was a royal free Chapel dedicated to St. George. Previous to the year 1675 this fortress was used as the county-gaol; and the two courts of justice were held here. In 1662, pursuant to an order of the king and council, the walls and gates, and part of the castle were demolished: and the site of it, sold soon afterwards to Robert Haselrig, Esq. in whose family it still remains. It appears indeed, from the account of Norden, that even in the year 1593 the castle was much decayed, and the walls defenceless. "This towne," says he, "is a faire towne, with many faire old buildings, large streets, and a very ample and faire market-place; it is walled about with a wall of stone, but meane too of strength: neare unto the towne there standeth an eminent castle, ruynous." SinceNorden's time most of these ruins have been swept away, or levelled: and now only a few fragments of foundation-walls, and parts of the fosses remain. The inner ballium was nearly circular, and surrounded by a lofty wall, with bastion towers at irregular distances. This was again encompassed by a deep and wide foss. A broad ballium, or area for the garrison, extended for some distance, and was guarded by an outer vallum, with barbican, &c. The general extent and character of the earth works may still be traced.

North

Northampton is both a *corporate* and *Borough* town: its first charter of incorporation appears to have been obtained from King Henry the Second, but since that reign several other charters, to alter, or enlarge the privileges of the corporate body, have been granted. For the first of these the burgesses gave a fine of 200 marks, to hold the town of the king *in capite*. By a subsequent charter from King John, they were exempted from all "toll, lastage and murage, throughout England; also from being impleaded out of the town;" and were invested with other liberties in as ample a manner as the citizens of London. For these privileges they were bound to pay annually, into the King's exchequer 120*l*. In the 41st year of Henry the Third, a new charter was obtained, confirming and extending the liberties, &c. of the burgesses. Again in the 27th of Edward the First, and in the 4th of Henry the Seventh, the charter was renewed and confirmed; and in the 9th year of the latter reign, the mayor, bailiffs, &c. obtained the liberty of choosing a recorder, and appointing two burgesses, who, with the mayor, were invested with the powers of justices of peace within the town. By a charter bearing date 3d of August, 15th Charles the Second, the corporation is specified to consist of a mayor, and two bailiffs, and such as have been mayors and bailiffs, with 48 burgesses, called common council, recorder, chamberlain, and town clerk. Though this charter was surrendered in 1683, and a new one issued, yet the former continued in force till 1796, when an altered, or as commonly called, new charter was obtained. According to a provincial newspaper, it was brought from London by the mayor, who was conducted from the bridge, through the town "with great ceremony, amidst the congratulations of the townsmen, on the re-establishment of their ancient privileges, and the security and protection afforded to the poor."

The recorder and town clerk usually continue for life, though subject to an annual election. This corporation is invested with extensive juridical powers: being qualified to try all criminal causes, though they seldom extend their jurisdiction

tion beyond petty larcenies. For this purpose therefore, they hold a court of record, once in every three weeks.

As a *Borough,* Northampton has continued to return two members to the British Senate, ever since the twelfth year of the reign of Edward the First, when it sent two representatives to the Parliament held at Acton-Burnel in Gloucestershire. In the first year of Edward the Second, the Parliament was held at Northampton; and John de Longeville, and Robert de Bedford, were members for this place. Few boroughs have been more noted in the annals of contested election than Northampton, as it is commonly considered an Open-borough: i. e. every inhabitant householder, paying scot and lot, has the liberty of voting. This, Mr. Pennant calls, " a cruel privilege; for such who have, of late years, been ambitious of recommending their representatives." If cruel to the ambitious, it is certainly important to the humble part of the public, for though corruption, intrigue, and bribery may seduce a few, these are not so likely to operate on the many. The number of voters is nearly 1000. A memorable *election contest* occurred for this borough in 1768, when the Earls of Halifax, Northampton, and Spencer were opposed to each other; or rather each exerted his respective influence to return a member. Never, perhaps, was bribery so extensively and lavishly employed: and though all the parties were not positively ruined, yet each was materially injured in fortune. It is stated that Lord Spencer expended above 100,000*l.*: and each of the other noblemen nearly 150,000*l.*

Churches. There were formerly *seven Parish Churches,* within the walls of Northampton; respectively dedicated to All Saints, St. Giles, St. Gregory, St. Mary, St. Michael, St. Peter, and St. Sepulchre. Besides these, there was St. Catharine's, a chapel of ease to All Saints, in the town; St. Edmund's Church, without the east gate; and St. Bartholomew's, without the north gate. Of these structures, four only are remaining at present, into which number of parishes the town is divided; All Saints, St. Giles's, St. Peter's, and St. Sepulchre's.

The

The Church dedicated to All Saints, situated about the centre of the town, having been consumed by fire, in 1675, was begun to be rebuilt soon afterwards, and was completed in the year 1680, and the first sermon was preached by the Bishop of Peterborough, Sept. 5, 1680. The interior of this is very unlike the generality of Churches. The windows and architectural ornaments are neither Gothic, Grecian, nor of any regular order, or style. It consists of one large room, or space, with a square chancel, at the east end, and a tower at the west end : near the centre are four large columns, supporting a flat roof, from which rise a dome or cupola.

The length of the body is seventy-three feet, and its breadth seventy-four feet. The chancel is thirty-four feet and a half long, and twenty-four feet broad, and is divided from the nave, by a carved screen of Norway oak. At the west end of the church is a portico, twenty-four feet in length, supported by ten pillars, and two pilasters, of the Ionic order, and ballustraded at the top. On it is a statue of Charles the Second, with an inscription commemorative of his gift of one thousand tons of timber, towards rebuilding the church. The interior contains few objects to arrest attention, or gratify curiosity. Against the north wall is a mural slab to the memory of *Sir James Stonehouse,* Bart. M. D. whose benevolent mind will ever be revered by the inhabitants of Northampton. He was the projector and chief promoter of the Infirmary, and acted as physician to it, during the latter part of his life. He died Dec. 8, 1795, in the eightieth year of his age.

Attached to the western end of the church, is a tablet recording the name of John Bailes, who was born in this town, and lived to a very advanced age; retaining his faculties of "hearing, sight, and memory to the last. He lived in three centuries, and was buried the 14th of April, 1706." Bridges observes, that, "his age appears to have been assigned conjecturally to 126; he was at most but 114 years old." After his death he was dissected, by Dr. James Keill, who published an account of the appearances, &c. of the corpse, in the Philosophical Transactions, No. 306, Art. 8. He was a button-maker, and attended

all

all the neighbouring markets and fairs, to dispose of his own manufactures.

At the south-west corner of the Church-yard, is a *Conduit*, covered with a small octangular building, which was formerly ornamented with eight pinnacles, and tracery, in two rows of pannels.

St. Giles's Church, is situated near the eastern end of the town, immediately withinside the ancient town wall. This is a large pile of building, and consists of a nave, ailes, transept, and tower rising from the centre. At the west end is an ancient *Door-way*, with a semicircular arch, and Norman mouldings. In the south transept is an old *Altar-monument*, which is said to have been raised to one of the Gobion family; but the inscription is wholly obliterated. Within this Church there was formerly a *Chapel* dedicated to St. Peter; and a fraternity, or *Guild* of St. Clement.

St. Peter's Church, is seated at the western extremity of the town, in the vicinity of the Castle, and was probably erected by one of the first Norman Earls of Northampton. From the register of St. Andrew's Priory, in this town, it appears that the rectory of St. Peter's, was given to that monastery, by Simon de St. Liz, and was confirmed to it, with the Chapelries of Kingsthorpe and Upton, by Hugh Wells, Bishop of Lincoln. "In the reign of Henry the Third, the right of patronage was recovered of the Convent by the King, and continued for some time in the hands of the Crown. The advowson was afterwards given by Edward the Third, in the third year of his reign, to the Masters, Brethren, and Sisters of St. Catharine's Hospital, near the Tower, (of London) with whom it hath ever since continued. It was the privilege of this Church, that a person accused of any crime, intending to clear himself by Canonical purgation, should do it here, and in no other place of the town, having first performed his vigil and prayers, in the said Church the evening before."* Hence it appears that this Church was invested

* Bridges' Hist. of North. Vol. 1. p. 445.

vested with the privilege of sanctuary; and it may be also inferred that it was founded by, or under the patronage of some powerful person, or society. The *Architecture* of this Church is curious and interesting. In some particulars it may indeed be considered an unique edifice: hence it would be desirable to ascertain the era of its erection, but of this we have no record; each person is therefore at liberty to conjecture, but as almost every antiquary is a slave to hypothesis, he is constantly liable to err himself, and deceive others. Perhaps, if we refer the origin of the building to a period within fifty years after the Norman conquest, we shall be nearly certain of its age; but it must be acknowledged, that many ornaments, proportions, and parts do not exactly assimilate with the prevalent style of that era, yet they are generally too slender and ornamental for the Anglo-Saxons. St. Peter's Church consists of a nave, and two ailes of equal length; having seven columns on each side, three of which are composed of four semi-columns. The four single shafts are ornamented with stone bands,* of four mouldings, near the centre; but the clustered columns, which seemed more to require this appearance of binding, have no such appendage.

All the capitals are charged with sculpture of scroll-work, heads, animals, &c. On each side of the nave are eight semi-circular arches, with indented zigzag mouldings on the face and soffits. Over these was a series of six small windows, with semi-circular heads, on each side. But the most decorated and curious part of the interior of this singular structure, is the great archway, beneath the tower, at the western end of the nave. This consists of three receding arches, each charged, both in elevation and soffit, with zigzag mouldings. On each side of the archway, are three pilaster columns, some of which are ornamented

* The bandage-moulding seems an appropriate ornament to the clustered pillars; and accordingly it is seen very prevalent in the buildings about Henry the Third's reign, when it was customary to group several slender shafts of purbec marble together.

ornamented with spiral and lozenge mouldings. The *exterior* of the Church and Tower is equally curious, though the architectural and sculptural decorations, are not so profuse or elaborate. At the south-west and north-west angles of the tower are buttresses of peculiar form. Each consists of three semi-columns, gradually diminishing at every story. On the north and south sides of the same, are two series of arcades; and at the west end, one range corresponding; with a blank arch, having three rows of flat stones, charged with varied tracery in panels. At the south side of the church is an ancient door-way, with semi-circular arch: and on each side of the nave, over the ailes, is a continued range of arcades. Over these are numerous brackets, representing various grotesque heads, figures, &c. The *Font*, about the age of Edward the First, is covered with blank arches, crocketted pediments, &c. similar to the Queen's Cross. The very interesting church, which we have now endeavoured to describe, is entitled to the most careful preservation, and it is hoped that the church-wardens and clergy belonging to it, will be attentive to their charge, not only to protect it from wanton injury, but from those *beautifying* reparations, which too commonly are more injurious than beneficial to such buildings. In the present edifice, this is displayed in the thick coats of whitewash, plaster, &c. which have been repeatedly laid on, thereby obscuring many ornaments, and destroying the harmony and propriety of the whole architectual design.*

St. Sepulchre's Church, near the northern extremity of the town, is another singular and curious specimen of the ecclesiastical architecture of England. This also, like St. Peter's, may be considered unique, having some features and peculiarities unlike any other of the country. Mr. Pennant and some other writers, say, it is supposed to have been "built by the

* A ground plan, elevation of one side of the nave, Perspective view of the Interior, and another of the exterior, are published in the second volume of the *Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain.*

the Knights-Templars, on the model of that at Jerusalem." This conjecture has arisen from the circumstance of the original church having been circular, * whilst that of the holy sepulchre at Jerusalem, was also constructed in that form. The present edifice consists of a square tower with a spire, at the west end: a circular part, and a square east end, of three ailes. This and the tower are additions, of a comparatively modern date, to the original edifice. Part of the circular building is evidently very ancient, probably before A. D. 1200; but various alterations have been made at different times. Within a circular exterior wall, is a series of eight columns, also disposed in a circle. From these arise eight arches, in the pointed style, but completely plain and unadorned. Over the columns, the wall assumes an octangular shape. Four of the pillars have square bases and capitals, whilst those of the other four are circular. Bridges calls them "of the *tuscan order*;" and Grose, in his Antiquities, repeats the same terms; but there is very little of the Tuscan or Doric style displayed in the architecture of this building. Here was evidently a church in the time of Henry the First, as that monarch gave it, with four acres of land, to the convent of St. Andrew. In the exterior wall of the old church, are two ancient door-ways, three windows, and others stopped up; also a piece of very old *sculpture*, just within the western door. In a wall, at the south-west end of the church, is another piece of old sculpture, representative of the crucifixion; probably the top of a stone-cross.

Destroyed Churches. It has already been remarked, that Northampton formerly contained seven churches, of which only four remain, the others having been destroyed or dilapidated. It



* Other churches of this form were built in England, but three only of these remain. At *the Temple*, London; *Little Maplestead*, Essex; and that of the *Holy Sepulchre*, at Cambridge; Plans, Views, and Descriptions of all these are given in the *Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain*, Vol. I. with "An Essay towards an History of Temples and Round Churches."

may gratify local curiosity to point out the sites, &c. of these. Just without the north-gate, was one dedicated to *St. Bartholomew*, the parish belonging to which, is united to that of St. Sepulchre's. The church-yard, now a small field, is called *Lawless Close*, a corruption Bridges thinks, " from Lawrence, by which name it appears to have been known in later times." Leland says, that he " saw the ruines of a *large Chapelle* without the north-gate."

Immediately without the eastern gate of the town, was a *church* dedicated to *St. Edmund*, which appears to have been standing in the time of Henry the Eighth. Near St. Peter's church, was that of *St. Gregory*, the site and buildings of which were granted in 1577, for a *Grammar-school*, with the vicarage house, for the use of the master. Part of the church is still appropriated to the school-house.

In St. Mary's-street, eastward of the castle, was a *church*, dedicated to the " *Blessed Virgin*," which was united to the vicarage of All Saints, in 1589. A *church* to *St. Michael*, was seated in St. Michael's-lane, now called Cock-lane, north of Abingdon-street. The parish is annexed to St. Sepulchre's. In the parish of All Saints, was *St. Catharine's Chapel*, in the cemetry belonging to which, it was formerly customary to inter the bodies of those persons who died of the plague. Besides these, there appears to have been *St. Martin's Chapel*, in St. Martin's-street, and *St. Margaret's Church* without the west-gate. Most of these buildings were annexed to the monastery of St. Andrew, by Hugh Wells, Bishop of Lincoln early in the thirteenth century.

Northampton formerly contained several monastic establishments and edifices, but few of these are remaining. In order to shew the state of the place anterior to the time of Henry the Eighth, who like most tyrannical monarchs, effected some good, without intending it, we propose to give a short account of the different religious foundations, which were successively established in the town. The first, in order of time, appears to have been the PRIORY OF ST. ANDREW, situated at the north-

western

western part of the town, near the river, and was founded anterior to the year 1076; for in 1084, Simon de St. Liz repaired the buildings, and augmented the endowments. It was also then made a *cell* to the *Abbey* of St. Mary de Caritate; and progressively was much enriched by the gifts of several royal and noble persons. By a survey taken the twenty-sixth of Henry the Eighth, its annual revenues were rated at 263*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* clear of all deductions. The last prior of St. Andrews, was appointed the first dean of Peterborough cathedral, as a reward for his submissive acquiescence to the commissioners. Several eminent persons were interred here.

The *Franciscans* or *Grey-Friars*, had an establishment in Northampton, soon after their coming into England. They originally hired a habitation in St. Giles's parish, but afterwards built one on ground given them by the town, in the year 1245. John Windlowe, the last warden, and ten of his brethren, surrendered their poor revenues of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum, 28th of October, 1539; after which the Friary was granted to one Richard Taverner.

Near this house was a PRIORY of Carmelites, or White-Friars, founded in 1271, by Simon Mountfort and Thomas Chetwood. It was valued at 10*l.* 10*s.* per annum, and granted to William Ramesden after being resigned by John Howel, the last prior, and eight brethren.

The DOMINICANS, or BLACK FRIARS, were fixed here before 1240. John Dalyngton was either founder or a considerable benefactor to this establishment. Its annual revenues were only 5*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* It was resigned to the crown by its prior, William Dyckyns, and seven of its friars.

William Peverel, natural son to the Conqueror, founded before 1112, a house of *Black Canons*, in honor of St. James. Its annual revenues amounted to 175*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* according to Dugdale; or 213*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* according to Speed. Henry the Eighth granted

it to Nicholas Giffard. Its last abbot was William Brokden, who, with five monks, resigned it in 1540.

The Austin Friars or Friars Eremites, had a house in Bridge-street, founded in 1322, by Sir John Longueville, of Wolverton, in Buckinghamshire; and several persons of his name were interred here. John Goodwyn, the prior, with seven friars, resigned it to the king in 1539. It was soon afterwards granted to Robert Dighton. Its revenues are unknown.

The College of All Saints, was founded in 1459, with liberty of purchasing to the value of twenty marks. It consisted only of two fellows. In 1535, it was found, clear of all reprizes, to be worth 39*s.* 4*d.* College-lane, in this town, takes its name from it.

The Hospital of St. John, an ancient building in Bridge-street, consists of a chapel, a large hall, with apartments for the brethren, and two rooms above for the co-brothers. The stair-case is painted, and the chapel window is handsome in form and ornaments. This hospital was founded for the reception of infirm poor persons, probably by William St. Clere, archdeacon of Northampton, who died possessed of that dignity, in 1168. He is supposed to have been brother to one of the Simon St. Clere's; but Leland justly insinuates that they never were called by that name, but by that of St. Liz.

Near this place, close to the site of the south gate, is St. Thomas's Hospital, which was founded in 1450, in honor of St. Thomas Becket. It was first endowed for twelve poor people, but an additional revenue was granted by Sir John Langham, in 1654, for six more. Another alms-man is supported by a third bequest, left by Richard Massingberd. The front of this hospital is ornamented with niches, pointed windows, and a row of shields in panels.

Among the public buildings and establishments of the town, none

none is more prominent in utility, or larger in size, than the GENERAL INFIRMARY. This was begun in 1791, and opened in 1793. It stands on the eastern side of, but detached from, the town, on the brow of a hill, which gradually slopes to the south. The building, which cost about 15,000*l.* consists of three stories above ground, and one beneath, and is admirably disposed for the reception and accommodation of the sick. One side of the house is appropriated to male, and the other to female patients. The whole was designed and built by Mr. Saxton, architect, and is faced with stone, from the Kings-thorpe quarries; the proprietor of which made a present of the whole. This was a noble and liberal act. The establishment is supported by the interest arising from numerous legacies and annual subscriptions; and it must afford much gratification to the benevolent and humane mind, to contemplate the extensive benefit that has been afforded by this infirmary. According to the last report of the committee in August, 1809, there appear to have been cured, during the preceding year, "1859 in and out-patients;" and since the first opening of the infirmary in 1744,* there have been 44,147 persons "perfectly cured," besides 5,780, who had derived "great benefit." Exclusive of medical and surgical aid, the establishment provides, what are no mean auxiliaries in the cure of distempers, *proper accommodations, constant attention, with wholesome and nutritious food.* "In our charitable abode, say the committee, "nothing is denied that can any way promote recovery." The society is regulated by a grand visitor, (Duke of Grafton,) president, (Earl Spencer,) governors, and such a number of officers and servants, as from time to time shall be found necessary.



* Previous to the year 1793 the Old *County*-Infirmary was near All Saints Church, in the midst of the town, and this only afforded relief to poor persons belonging to the county; but at its removal was made a *General* Infirmary, and intended to administer its aid to all persons properly recommended, or to any when required by sudden emergency.

Near All Saints Church is the OLD COUNTY GAOL, now converted into the turnkey's lodge, and debtor's prison. It was originally built by Sir Thomas Haslewood, as a private house. Behind this is the *New Gaol* which was begun in 1791, and finished in 1794. It was built from the designs of Mr. Brettingham, architect, and cost between 15,000*l.* and 16,000*l.* It is arranged according to Howard's plan, and will hold about 120 prisoners.

The *Town gaol* in Fish-lane, is a small modern building. Near the east end of All Saints Church, is the COUNTY HALL or *Sessions-house*, a large room, fitted up for the two courts of Nisi-Prius and Crown.

At the northern extremity of the town, is a range of modern buildings, erected in 1796, and appropriated to BARRACKS. A new THEATRE has been built in Gold-street.

A BLUE COAT SCHOOL was established here about the year 1710, by John Dryden, Esq. of Chesterton, who gave his house, called the *George Inn*, to endow it. The trustees appointed to superintend this charity, obtained an Act of Parliament, a few years ago, to sell this house, and invest the money in the funds, and appropriate the interest to the school. The George Inn was purchased by a society of several persons, who subscribed 50*l.* each, and is now their property.

BROWN SCHOOL. The late James Earl of Northampton, and other gentlemen of the county, gave several sums of money to the Corporation, who purchased an estate at Bugbrooke, the rents arising from which is applied to clothe twenty poor freemen, and educate and clothe twenty-five boys of freemen. When the revenues have been inadequate to pay the annual charges, the deficiency has been made up by the Corporation.

GREEN SCHOOL. Mr. Gabriel Newton, in 1761, gave a rent charge of 26*l.* per annum, to provide twenty-five poor boys with clothing and education; but this sum being insufficient, the Corporation advance the remaining money necessary to support the establishment.

A GIRL'S SCHOOL, was founded here by two ladies in 1738, and endowed

endowed with lands and houses to support and educate thirty poor girls. The revenues having increased, six more children are also now provided for.

In the year 1778, An *Act of Parliament* was obtained for *paving, lighting, watching*, &c. the town; but this being found insufficient, a new act was procured in 1797. To carry this into effect, the commissioners expended about 10,000*l.* to meet the interest for which, a rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, is levied on the rental of the houses. In consequence of this act, nearly all the streets and lanes of Northampton are paved, both for carriages and foot passengers; and as the town is chiefly built on the slope, and near the top of a hill, it is generally clean and pleasant. Near its centre is a large open area, surrounded by shops and private houses, called the *Square*, or Market-place. In the centre of this is a large public pump, and at one side is a reservoir of water, called the *Great Conduit*. In the town are several chapels, appropriated to different sects or religious societies. That called the *Castle-Hill Meeting* is a large commodious building, and belongs to the Independents. The justly celebrated Dr. *Doddridge*, D. D. preached here for twenty-two years, and also superintended an academy, which by his learning and judicious management, obtained considerable reputation. Close application however occasioned a consumption of the lungs, to mitigate, or cure which, he was advised to visit Lisbon, where he died in 1751. In this chapel, a small mural tablet* records his name and memory, and contains an epitaph, written by Gilbert West.

Another *Meeting-House* for *Independents*, was erected here in 1776, in which are several small, but handsome monumental memorials. The *Baptists' Meeting*, a large building, was formerly noted by the preaching of the Rev. J. *Ryland*, who officiated in it for some time, and was buried here. The Moravians, Methodists, and Quakers have also chapels in the town.



* A print of this, with a portrait of the Doctor, are annexed to a new and complete edition of his works, published by Matthews and Leigh, London.

Northampton contains a few *Old Mansions*, entitled to notice. Near St. Peter's Church, is a large old house, with windows supported on brackets, and other exterior marks of ancient architecture. This belonged to the Heselreges, of whom some account has been given in Vol. IX. p. 452, of this work. In Horse-shoe-lane are some remains, in out-houses, a gable end with bow-window, battlements, &c. of a house which belonged to Sir Edmond Bray. At the bottom of Bridge-street, Lady Fermor had a mansion, the remains of which are converted into small tenements. At the north-eastern corner of the Market-square, is an old house, having some shields, with arms, the date of 1595, and other ornaments on its principal front. It is supposed to have belonged to the Ives family.

The *town of Northampton* may be said to be divided into four, nearly equal parts, by two streets, running east and west, and north and south. Both these streets are wide and commodious, and each extends nearly a mile in length. Most of the houses are built of a reddish coloured sand-stone, dug from quarries in the neighbourhood; but some are constructed of stone of a yellowish tint, and a few are brick buildings. At the eastern extremity of the town, a pleasant *walk* has been made, its sides planted with hedges and trees, and thus rendered peculiarly eligible as a promenade for healthful exercise. It is called *Vigo Paradise Walk*, or the *New Walk*, and was formed at the expence of the Corporation. At the lower extremity is a spring of chalybeate water, inclosed with steps and walls; and near the upper end is another spring of clear water, known by the name of *Thomas a Becket's Well*. At the north side of the town is a tract of land, which, in the year 1778, was an open field of 894 acres, but in that year an act was obtained to inclose it. About 129 acres of this was then allotted to the freemen of the town, for cattle, &c. but it was provided in the act that the same may be claimed and used as a *race course* for any two days between the 20th of July and 20th of October. Two weekly *Newspapers* are published in Northampton; besides which, three respectable booksellers' shops,

shops, and some circulating book societies, tend to promote the great ends of liberal enquiry, and promulgate useful knowledge. One of the latter, called "the *General Library*," contains a large and accumulating stock of valuable scientific books; and is established on a plan likely to render it permanent and increasingly advantageous to all the members. From literature to *public characters*, is an easy and natural transition; and it will be found that Northampton has given birth to some persons of eminence, who may be properly classed among the *worthies* of the county. *Richard* and *Adam* of *Northampton*, were born here, and both were advanced to the Episcopal See of Ferns, in Ireland; the first in 1282, and the second in 1322.

*John of Northampton*, or according to his Latin name *Joannes Avonius*, was a Carmelite friar, in this his native place. He was author of a work, entitled, "*The Philosopher's Ring*," a sort of perpetual almanack, which was "esteemed a master-piece of that age." He lived in 1340.

Samuel Fisher was the son of a shop-keeper of the town, and after practising as a puritanical minister, for eleven years, at Lydde in Kent, turned Anabaptist, and zealously inculcated the tenets of that sect. Like a true enthusiast, he also published several pamphlets to promulgate his sentiments and doctrines. The Quakers having attracted his attention, and presenting to his imagination some novelty, he next adopted their creed, and advocated their cause. With a degree of zeal, bordering on crazy quixotism, he undertook a journey to Rome, for the avowed purpose of converting the Pope to the Quaker tenets; but failing in his mission, returned to England, and continued to recommend the cause of Quakerism, till death checked his wild career of fanaticism. After the restoration of King Charles the Second, he held a conventicle in London, for which he was imprisoned in Newgate, but obtaining his release, retired to Hackney, where he died of the plague, in October, 1665.

Dr. Samuel Parker, Bishop or Oxford, was born in 1640, and received the first rudiments of education, in this town, whence he

removed to Oxford. Here he was first a student of Wadham College, and afterwards of Trinity College. In the early part of his life he espoused the cause of the puritans, but soon deserted them, and zealously advocated the Church of England's doctrines. In 1665, he published a work, called "*Textamina*," &c. and was also author of "a History of his own Times," which has been printed in Latin and English. Servilely courting the favour of King James the Second, that monarch rewarded his court sycophancy, by making him Privy Counsellor and Bishop of Oxford. He died in 1687.

Dr. THOMAS CARTWRIGHT, Bishop of Chester, was also a native of Northampton. He gradually advanced himself in the church, and was progressively appointed Vicar of Waltham-Stow, in Essex; Domestic Chaplain to Henry Duke of Gloucester; Doctor of Divinity; Prebendary of Twyford, in the cathedral of St. Paul's London; Minister of St. Thomas Apostle, London; Dean of Ripon; and next, Bishop of Chester. King James the Second afterwards made him one of the ecclesiastical commissioners, and on the death of Seth Ward, Bishop of Salisbury, appointed him Titular Bishop of that See. Following his royal master to Ireland, he died there in 1689, and was buried in Christ-church, Dublin. Several of his sermons, and a speech spoken at Magdalen College, Oxford, are in print. A portrait of him has been engraved in Mezzotinto, by J. Becket, from a picture by Soest.

WILLIAM BEAUFU, a native of Northampton, was a carmelite friar here, and wrote an account of the "*Miracles of the Blessed Virgin Mary*;" a "*Lecture of Lentinus*," &c. He also translated different works out of French into Latin, and dying here, was interred in his monastery, Anno. Dom. 1390.

ROBERT BROWN, the celebrated founder of the Brownists, from whom have sprung the numerous and respectable sect of Independents, was a native of this town, according to Collier,* and after having studied divinity in the University of Cambridge, he became a school-master in Southwark. However he was destined

* See Colliers's Great Historical Dictionary, Vol. I.

destined to act a more prominent character on the stage of life, and instead of teaching youth the rudiments of language, he undertook to instruct adults, in what he deemed, the true principles of religion. He therefore determined to preach and practice a new system; and accordingly, about the year 1580, "he began to inveigh with intemperate vehemence and ardour against the discipline and ceremonies of the Church of England, representing her government as anti-christian, her sacraments as superstitious, her liturgy as a mixture of Popery and Paganism, and the mission of her clergy as no better than that of Baal's priests in the Old Testament."* Persecuted for these opinions, and his conduct in promulgating them, he fled to Middleburgh. Here he established himself, and published three tracts, entitled, 1. "A Treatise on Reformation," &c. 2. "A Treatise upon the 23d chapter of Matthew," &c. and 3. "A Book, which sheweth the Life and Manners of all True Christians," &c. Returning to England, and persisting in cherishing and disseminating his new tenets, he experienced much persecution from the established prelates. Some of these at last frightened him into *apparent* submission, and he was then appointed to a rectory in this county. Here, according to Fuller, he had a church, in which he never preached, and a wife, with whom he never lived. Opposing some proceeding of a parish constable, he was arrested, and conveyed to Northampton gaol, on a bed in a cart, being above eighty years of age. In the latter part of his life he boasted of having "been committed to 32 prisons;" and here he died in 1630.†

Overstone-Hall, at the eastern extremity of Spelhoe Hundred, is a respectable mansion; and after having been occupied by various proprietors, was purchased of the late Lord Brownlow, by John Kipling, Esq. its present possessor. A new, and very

* Rees's Cyclopædia, article Brown.

† See a copious account of him, his tenets, and adventures in Biographia Britannica, Vol. II. 1789.

very neat *Church*, with windows of stained glass, has been built here, at the sole expense of Mr. Kipling.

Pitsford, a small village about five miles north of Northampton, is seated on an elevated dry soil, but is singularly well watered: for as Morton reports, in a field of about twelve hundreds, at this place "there are at least twelve hundred springs, and no fewer than twenty-four little rills," besides several other springs arising from the sloping sides of "four or five little vallies." In this parish, near the great turnpike road, is a sepulchral tumulus, known by the name of *Longman's-Hill*. On a heath here, is a small *encampment*, called *Barrow-Dykes*, the circumvallation of which was formerly of a square form, but only two sides remain, one of which is about eighty yards in length. In this parish is Pitsford-Hall, which has been occupied for some years by Colonel Corbet. The house, a respectable modern building, consists of a centre and two wings.

Robert Skinner, Bishop of Worcester, was the second son of Edmund Skinner, rector of this parish. He received his education at Oxford, and becoming Fellow of Trinity College, was tutor to the celebrated Chillingworth. He successively obtained the Bishoprics of Bristol and Oxford, holding the livings of Greens-Norton in this county, and Launton near Bicester, in commendam; being deprived of his see on the fall of episcopacy, he retired to Launton, where he is supposed to have been the only prelate who conferred orders during the Commonwealth. At the Restoration, he was re-instated; and in 1663 was translated to Worcester, where he died in 1670, and is interred in the cathedral church of that city.*

At Spratton, about six miles from Northampton, is a handsome house, occupied at present by John Bambrigge Storey, Esq. The tower of the church is a fine specimen of the Anglo-Saxon style.

* See Green's History of Worcester, 2 vol. 4to.

style. The western entrance is formed of semi-circular receding arches, supported by columns with decorated capitals, over which is a double row of semi-circular mouldings; the lower one of chevron, and the upper of varied tracery. A range of arches between pillars embraces the north, west, and south sides. The belfry window consists of a Saxon arch, divided in the centre by a mullion, and at each extremity a smaller arch, pointed: above, are two fillets, with grotesque heads underneath, surmounted by an octagonal spire; which, with the body of the church, are comparatively of modern date. The inner door of the south porch is also of the Saxon style. On an *altar monument*, in the chauntry-chapel, is the figure of a knight in white marble, with a wild boar at his feet; and on various parts of his girdle the initials I. S. traditionally supposed to be Sir John Swinford.

Weston Favel, a pleasant village between Abington and Great Billing, at one period boasted of three mansions, belonging to the families of Ekins, Holman, and Harvey, all of which are dilapidated. Within the walls which encircled one of them is a cherry orchard, with which this neighbourhood, and we believe no other part of the county, abounds. The Rev. James Hervey, the popular author of Meditations, &c. who possessed this rectory, and preached here many years to overflowing congregations, lies in the chancel under a plain stone, marked by a simple inscription.

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## NEWBOTTLE-GROVE, or NOBOTTLE HUNDRED.

Is supposed, but improperly, to derive its name from a large plantation of *firs*, situated between Dallington and Bramley; for in the Domesday Survey this district is denominated *Nevebote, Nive-botle*, and *Nivebottle Grove*. The etymology of the compound

compound implies a *circular* wood; as Neve means round or circular, and bote in Saxon signifies wood. The district still abounds with groves, and timber trees; and is well cultivated in many parts. The small heaths, of Brampton, Harleston, Darlington, and Duston, are, however, left in a wild, and almost unprofitable state. The hundred contains the parishes of *Brington, Brockhall, Bugbrooke, Chapel Brampton, Church Brampton, Dallington, Duston, Flower, East-Haddon, Harlestone, Harpole, Heyford* Nether, *Heyford* Upper, *Holdenby, Kislingbury, Ravensthorpe,* including the Hamlet of Teeton, *Upton,* and *Whilton.*

Althorpe, in the parish of Brington, is the seat of Earl Spencer. The house, a large pile of building, occupying three sides of a quadrangle, was built by the Earl of Sunderland, in the year 1688. Mr. Gough states* "that this estate, &c. has belonged to the Spencers ever since the reign of Henry the Seventh. Robert Lord Spencer was succeeded, 1627, by his son William, and he, 1637, by his son Henry, created Earl of Sunderland after the battle of Edgehill, 1642, and slain at the battle of Newbury the same year." Morton remarks, that Althorp is memorable for three things: "1. The exactness of the proportions of all the parts, both without and within, and particularly that of the gallery. 2. For the dry moat which encompasses the house upon three sides. 3. For the park."† What the natural historian deemed subjects of beauty, or objects of admiration, are not considered so now: for as an example of domestic architecture, the House of Althorpe does not present the least claims to beauty, grandeur, or symmetry. The moat, originally filled with water, is obliterated, and the squared garden plots, walks, &c. have been superseded by level lawns. The contents of this mansion are, however, highly interesting and valuable; in its large and fine collection of pictures, and vast

* Britannia, Vol. II. p. 175, ed. 1789.

† Natural History, p. 493.

vast library of choice books. In the latter article, Lord Spencer is laudably emulous of possessing the most enlarged and selected collection in England; and it is generally admitted that he has succeeded. The books at Althorpe fill three or four apartments, besides which, his lordship has a much larger library at his house in London. The pictures here are also numerous, and many of them of the first class. A few of these can only be noticed on the present occasion. PORTRAITS---A Head of *Cornaro* by Titian:---Another of a young man of the Cornaro family, by the same artist:---Head of the late Lord Lucan:---Lord Althorpe, when a boy, in a fine landscape by Sir *Joshua Reynolds:* another of Lady Camden, by the same admirable painter. Head of *Verrio,* by himself:---Full length of *Rubens* in black, by *Vandyck*:---A small head of *Henry VIII.* probably by H. Holbein: full length of *William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle,* by Vandyck: another of Elizabeth, *Countess of Falmouth,* by the same: also a full length of Rachel, *Countess of Southampton:* a half length of *Artemisia Gentelischi,* with Pallet, &c. by herself: a head of *Petro Van Mol.* dated 1635: full lengths of *George Digby, Earl of Bristol;* and William, 5th *Earl,* and 1st *Duke of Bedford:* Vandyck: *Venetia Lady Digby* after death, by Vandyck: *Henry VIII.* and his Children, a large picture, supposed by Holbein. *Ignatius Loyola,* by Titian: *Duchess of Devonshire,* a full length in a landscape, by Sir Joshua Reynolds: *Rembrandt's Mother,* by Rembrandt. PICTURES---A Soldier in Armour, Salvator Rosa: Landscape and Figures, H. Micham: Venus and Adonis, Titian: Sampson and a Lion, Gia. Brandi: Witches, a very curious picture, by Salv. Rosa: Hermits in a Cave, with a Cross, &c. D. Teniers: a sweet and perfect specimen of the Master: Schoolmaster and his Scholars, by Lud. Caracci. A Boy blowing a piece of burning wood, Scalken: Hero and Leander, with Dolphins, &c. Teniers; a curious and unusual sort of picture for this master: Acis and Galatea, by N. Poussin: Holy Family, Raffaelle, a singularly fine and highly finished picture, by this immortal artist: Descent from the Cross, N. Poussin; St. Charles Baromio

celebrating high mass, by Dominichino: Landscape with Rocks, figures, &c. and very fine sky, by D. Teniers: Jewish Sacrifice, a fine sketch, by Rubens: a Landscape, with setting sun; containing views of an arch, bay, trees, temple, &c. by Claude: a Descent from the Cross, by Le Brun.

The *park* at Althorpe is distinguished by large masses of forest trees, and great inequality of surface in the natural disposition of its grounds.

About one mile north-west of Althorpe, is BRINGTON, called *Briton*, in the church of which village are several large and stately monuments, to different persons of the Spencer family. Some of the tombs are designed with columns, pediments, and other architectural members: and most of them contain effigies in armour, or with dresses characteristic of the respective ages when they lived. These are in a private chapel, railed off from the north side of the chancel: and besides the monuments, here are various swords, pieces of armour, with panes of painted glass in the window. As most of the persons interred here, have been illustrious by title, or eminent for public services, it is intended to give a short account of them. The first in time, is an arched recess, inclosing an effigy of a knight in armour, with another of his lady, in the dress of the period in which she lived; and at their feet is a tablet bearing an inscription, recording the name of SIR JOHN SPENCER, Knt. who died April 14, 1522; and Dame Isabell his wife, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Walter Graunt, Esq. of Snitterfield, in the county of Warwick.

On the verge of an altar tomb, placed against the north wall, is a Latin inscription; and on a tablet over, one in English; both purporting that in this sepulchre were interred the remains of SIR WILLIAM SPENCER, Knt. and Dame Susan his wife, daughter of Sir Richard Knightley of Fawsley. Sir William died June 22, A.D. 1532.

Under an *arched mural monument*, which is gorgeously ornamented, are the figures of a knight in armour, and his lady, re-

cumbent on an altar tomb, with their hands uplifted in a supplicating posture; over which is an achievement of family arms, and against the wall a long inscription, stating that underneath are deposited the bodies of Sir John Spencer, Knt. who married Catherine, one of the daughters of Sir Thomas Kitson, Knt. of Hengrave, in the county of Suffolk; he died November 8, A.D. 1586.

A large monument, having a canopy supported on eight columns, and with two recumbent statues, is raised to the memory of Sir John Spencer, Knight, who died 1599; and his lady, who was sole daughter and heiress of Sir Robert Catelin, Knt.

Beneath an arch supporting a handsome monument, on a black marble tablet, an inscription records the name of Sir Robert Spencer, Knt. who was created Baron Spencer of Wormleighton; and Margaret his wife, one of the daughters and coheiresses of Sir Francis Willoughby, Knt. of Wollaton, in the county of Nottingham. Lord Robert died October 25, A.D. 1627; and Margaret his lady August 17, 1597. This monument was erected A.D. 1599, during the lifetime of the nobleman whose memory it preserves, who was summoned to the peerage in the reign of James the First.

Under an arch of black and white marble, supported by eight black marble columns of the Corinthian order, having the capitals white, lying on an altar tomb, are the figures of a baron and baroness, dressed in their state robes. Inscriptions, on four separate tablets, state that this elegant memorial is a tribute of conjugal affection to the virtues of Sir William Spencer, Knt. of the Bath, and Baron of Wormleighton, who had six sons and seven daughters, by his Lady Penelope, eldest daughter of Henry, Earl of Southampton; he died in the 45th year of his age, A.D. 1636. The other tablets contain appropriate sentiments. The statues were executed for Nicholas Stone, who paid for one 14*l.* and for the other 15*l.* Walpole's Works, Vol. III. p. 16.



* In the Magna Britannia, Vol. III. p. 510, it is stated, that Henry Spencer, the first Earl of Sunderland, lies interred here. He was a zealous loyalist, and was slain at the battle of Newbury, September 20, A. D. 1641.

Near the monument of Sir William Spencer, is an half-length statue of an armed man rising from a white marble urn, which bears an inscription to Sir Edward Spencer, youngest son of Robert Spencer, Baron of Wormleighton. He died in 1655, aged 61. This monument was erected by his disconsolate widow. A marble tablet, with a female figure personifying benevolence, and executed by Nollekens, R. A. perpetuates the memory of John Earl Spencer, born Dec. 19, 1734; died Oct. 31, 1783. An epitaph, in a high strain of compliment, like many of those by Pope, is attached to this monumental memorial. On the floor of the burial-place and chancel, are various flat marble slabs, charged with the family arms, and divers inscriptions. One commemorates *Margaret Spencer*, daughter of Sir Robert Spencer, Knt. Baron of Wormleighton, who departed this life December 6, A.D. 1613. Another, *Mary Spencer*, second daughter of William Lord Spencer, who died July 12, A.D. 1622. Collateral to this, another stone is sacred to the memory of William Spencer, third son of Richard Spencer, Esq. who died June 20, 1631. Both these died in their infancy.

On flat stones in the chancel are inscriptions to *Robert Spencer, Knt.* and Baron of Wormleighton; and stones of a similar description, mark the places of interment belonging to other families of less celebrity.

The church consists of a nave, two ailes, a chancel, with a tower at the west end, and a monumental chapel. Between the chancel and nave is a carved wood screen, with the date of 1605. This building is situated on the brow of an eminence, and commands an extensive and diversified tract of country.

Brockhall House, situated in the parish of the same name, is an old mansion, built by one of the Eyton family. It has been greatly enlarged and improved by the Thorntons, lords of the manor; and is now the residence of *Thomas Reeve Thornton, Esq.*

Dallington

Dallington Church contains several handsome monuments, commemorative of the *Raynsford* family; and is celebrated in the records of biography as the birth-place of Sir Joseph Jekyl, who was born in 1663. He was an eminent lawyer and distinguished patriot. By his attachment to the *whig* interest, and the zeal he displayed in conducting the trial of Dr. Sacheverel, he obtained considerable interest at court. On the accession of George the First, he received the honour of knighthood, and was made master of the rolls; and while holding that high official situation, he published a treatise, intitled "The Judicial Authority of the Master of the Rolls, Stated and Vindicated," in answer to the Lord Chancellor King. He died in the year 1738.

In Duston stood the very ancient monastery of St. James's Abbey, which was founded by William Peverel, natural son of William the Conqueror, for black canons of the Augustine order; and though no precise date appears upon record as to the time of its foundation, it must have been before A.D. 1112, as the founder died about the close of that, or the commencement of the following year. Though it does not appear that this was ever a *mitred* abbey, the abbot not having been in possession of a barony, yet two instances occur of the abbots having been summoned to parliament, in the forty-ninth of Henry the Third, and the twelfth year of Edward the Second. By the survey taken of the revenues in 1553, the clear annual income, exclusive of all customary deductions, amounted to 175*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*; and in 1559, it was, with its possessions, surrendered to the royal commissioners. Some remains of walls and foundations, are all the vestiges traceable at present, of this ancient and well endowed monastery.

The *Delves*, as they are provincially termed, in the parish of Harlestone, have occupied the attention of some antiquaries, but they appear to be simply hollows remaining from quarries, worked out or disused. The place has been famous, from re-

mote antiquity, for its strata of excellent blue ragstone, used for building, paving, and sepulchral purposes. Within a small distance of Newbottle Grove are vestiges of an ancient building, with several ruinous walks leading to it, called *Sharrah*. Some persons conjectured this to have been a religious cell; and others, the site of an ancient mansion. On *Delves-Heath* are traces of a fortification.

FLORE, or FLOWER, in the Domesday-book is called Flora, perhaps from its pleasantness of situation. The *Church* was given in the reign of King John, to Merton Abbey in Surry; but at the Dissolution, was granted to Christ Church, Oxford, to which college it now belongs. Here is a brass-plate, with figures of the Virgin and Child, and *Thomas Knaresburgh*, in armour, with Agnes his wife. He died in 1450, and she in 1483.

HARLESTONE HOUSE, a plain comfortable mansion, situated in a pleasing, though small park, well stocked with deer, is the residence of Robert Andrew, Esq. the present Sheriff of the county. New offices have been lately erected, various plantations made, and other improvements adopted on this estate, which evince both the taste and spirit of its present possessor.

In *Horestone* meadow, within the parish of NETHER HEYFORD, about half a mile east of Watling Street, was discovered a *tessellated pavement*, covered with mould and rubbish. The tessellæ were of variegated colours, and when first opened were as firm and compact as a stone floor; but exposed to the weather, the cement became less tenacious, and the tessellæ were easily separated. From what was found it appeared to have been fifteen feet in extent, from east to west; but its diameter from north to south is uncertain. Morton, in his usual conjectural style, presumes it must have been a square, and that it was the floor of a room in some building of a circular figure, about twenty yards in diameter; several lesser rooms

or

or passages at the same time were discovered. The sides of the floors were painted with three straight lines of a red, yellow, and green colour. Foundations of walls, and other vestiges of dilapidated buildings were also visible. In the apartments were found fragments of various antique earthen vessels, which Morton,* supposing to be a patera and urns, concludes, that this was the manor house of some eminent Roman, and that here some of the family had been interred. To this latter conjecture Hearne† objects; because, as he justly observes, it was not customary with the Romans to bury in private houses after the promulgation of the legal code, called the *Twelve Tables*, though the usage was prevalent anterior to that period. And the very allusion of Morton to the testimonies of Isidore and Servius prove directly the reverse of his position. From what can be collected of this pavement, it was among the *inferior* kind of tessellated works, distinguished under the appellation of *Ropographia*, though Morton, in his sanguine manner, says, that it exceeds all the pavements he had seen or read of in England. This, if not the site of a Roman *villa*, was evidently that of some *hall* or *mansion*, built for the residence of an officer commanding a district, and charged with the preservation of order within certain prescribed limits. Or it might have been the villa of the general, who presided over the adjacent military station, called *Benavenna*.

In the church of this village, on a tomb under an inarched monument, are the portraitures in brass, of a man in armour, and a woman in the habit of the times, having their hands joined together; with a Latin inscription, at the head of the tomb, recording the memory of *Sir Walter Mauntell*, and Elizabeth his wife; the former of whom died June 18, A. D. 1487.

At the upper end of the church against the south wall is an elegant monument, having for supporters two fine statues of



* Nat. Hist. of Northamp. p. 527.

† A discourse concerning the Stunsfield tessellated pavement, printed at the beginning of volume VIII. of Leland's Itinerary.

Faith and Hope. In the centre are the effigies of a man and his wife, with their offspring. On a marble tablet a Latin inscription purports that it was erected to the memory of *Francis Morgan*, one of the judges of the King's Bench, who died August 10, in the year 1558; and Ann his wife, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Christopher Pemberton. In 1553 this Francis Morgan, Esq. sate as judge, and pronounced sentence of death upon the amiable and unfortunate Lady Jane Grey. The cruelty and injustice of which is said to have so affected his conscience, previous to his death, as to bring on insanity, and that in the paroxysms of the disease he would cry out "take away the Lady Jane from me!"*

In this parish was born JOHN STANBRIDGE, an eminent grammarian, distinguished for his assiduity in attempting to revive the study of the Latin language. He was educated in Winchester, became Fellow of New College, Oxford, and was appointed first usher, and then master of the free school, attached to Magdalen College in the same university. He published several treatises on the science of grammar, and continued in his appointment till his death, which happened some time after 1522.

DR. JOHN PRESTON, commonly called the *patriarch* of the puritans, was also a native of this place. He received his education in Queen's College, and was afterwards elected master of Emanuel College, Cambridge. Having great influence with the puritans, and possessing a genius for politics, he was employed by the Duke of Buckingham to endeavour to obtain their compliance with the measures of the court. Desirous, however, of furthering the plans of his own party, he used the information thus confidentially entrusted to him for sinister ends, and thus frustrated the schemes of the politician. He died July 20, A. D. 1628.

HOLDENBY, or HOLMBY-HOUSE, in the parish of HOLDENBY, will

* Holinshed's Chron. Vol. II. p. 983.

will ever be memorable for the circumstances attending it previous to its dilapidation. It appears, both from descriptions and remaining vestiges, to have been a most magnificent structure, and was erected in the reign of Elizabeth, by Sir Christopher Hatton, who says, it was intended to be the last and greatest monument of his youth. Norden, who must have seen it in its pristine glory, says, "In the hall there are raised three pyramides, very high standing insteade of a shryne, the midst whearof ascendeth unto the roofe of the hall, the other two equal with the syde walls of the same hall, and on them are depainted the arms of all the gentlemen of the same shire, and of all the noblemen of this land. The situation of the same house is very pleasantlie contrived, mountinge on an hill environed with most ample and lardge fields, and goodly pastures, manie young groves newly planted, both pleasant and profitable; fishe ponds well replenished, a parke adjoyninge of fallow deare, with a large warren of conyes not farr from the house, lyinge between East-Haddon and Long Bugbye. About the house are great store of hares; and above the rest is especially to be noated, with what industrye and toyle of man the garden hath been raised, levelled, and formed out of a most craggye and unprofitable grounde, now framed a most pleasante, sweet, and princely place, with divers walks, manie ascendings and descendings, replenished also with manie delightful trees of fruite, artificially composed arbors, and a *destilling* house on the west end of the same garden; over which is a ponde of water, brought by conduit pypes out of the feyld adjoyninge on the west, a quarter of a mile from the same house. To conclude the state of the same house is such, and so beautifull, that it may well delight a prince."* The manor and house of Holdenby, subsequently devolved to the crown, and formed first a palace, and then a prison, for the unfortunate monarch, Charles the First. After he had surrendered his person to the Scots at New-



* "Delineation of Northamptonshire," published in 1610.

castle, expecting they would have espoused the royal cause against the parliament, he was by them sold to his enemies for the sum of 200,000*l.* paid down, and security given for a like sum. The king then delivered to a parliamentary committee, was carried to Holdenby-house; and though a kind of prisoner on parole, was placed under a strict, but pretended honorary guard. While he remained here, the dissension broke out between the Presbyterian party and the Independents; on which occasion it was judged expedient by the military commanders, as essential to the cause of the latter, that the king should be in their possession. Cornet Joyce was therefore dispatched by Cromwell, with fifty horse, to seize the king at Holdenby house, and bring him by force to the army, under promises, notwithstanding this violent proceeding, that his life and all his just rights should be respected; with what sincerity these were made, the page of history amply declares. The melancholy picture there drawn of the fate of royalty after this seizure, will ever cast a sombre cloud over the spot, and spread a veil of additional gloom over the venerable and mouldering ruins of the palace at Holdenby. Of this structure, which was probably demolished by order of parliament, some arches, pyramids, walls, and the grand entrance gateway, were standing in 1729, when a plate of it was published by N. and S. Buck.* But most of the remains have been removed to raise, or to be incorporated with, other buildings.

This place gave the title of baron to *Lewis Duras*, Marquis of Blanquefort, brother to the duc de Duras in France. He had been captain in the Duke of York's guards, and having signalized himself in a naval engagement with the Dutch in 1665, was afterwards raised to this dignity by King Charles the Second, who also conferred on him the manor of Holdenby.

Sir Christopher Hatton, a native of this place, was bred to the law; and by a rapid advance, raised to the highest honours

* An engraving of the ruin, has since been published by Grose, in his Antiquities of England and Wales.

nours and preferments. Having attracted the notice of Queen Elizabeth by his comely person, and graceful dancing at court,* he was first appointed one of the gentlemen pensioners, afterwards gentleman of the privy chamber, captain of the guard, vice-chamberlain, a privy-counsellor, lord chancellor of England, a knight of the garter, and chancellor of Oxford University. He died in 1591.

About two miles west of Northampton is UPTON-HALL, the seat of Thomas Samwell Watson Samwell, Esq. who has greatly improved the mansion house and contiguous grounds. The first is a large irregular building of brick and stone, partly ancient, and part modern. It is pleasantly situated, commanding a fine view to the south, on a gravelly soil, and contains some good

* Gray's poem called "a Long Story," though more particularly allusive to the old mansion of Stoke-Pogis in Buckinghamshire, may be considered equally applicable to this at Holdenby,

"In Britain's Isle, no matter where
An ancient pile of building stands:
The Huntingdons and Hattons there
Employ'd the pow'r of fairy hands,
To raise the ceiling's fretted height,
Each pannel in achievements clothing,
Rich windows that exclude the light,
And passages that lead to nothing.

Full oft within the spacious walls,
When he had fifty winters o'er him,
*My grave Lord-Keeper led the brawls;*
The seals and maces danc'd before him.

His bushy beard, and shoe-strings green,
His high-crown'd hat, and satin doublet,
Mov'd the stout heart of England's Queen,
Though Pope and Spaniard could not trouble it."

The brawls here alluded to, were a sort of figure dance, then much in vogue; and probably, deemed as elegant as our modern cotillions.

good apartments, in which are many family and other portraits.

The manor of Upton, with other estates in this county, have belonged to the *family* ever since the reign of Henry the Seventh. They are descended from the Samwells, who were formerly settled at Restormal Castle in Cornwall, and were created baronets in 1675. Francis Samwell was auditor to King Henry the Seventh, and Sir William Samwell, Knt. auditor to Queen Elizabeth, and was knighted at the coronation of King James the First. The present possessor succeeded to the family estates on the decease of his maternal uncle, Sir Wenman Samwell, Baronet, in 1789, and by an Act of Parliament passed in 1790, then took the surname and arms of Samwell.

The walls of the *hall* or saloon, were painted with basso-reliefs, by Joseph Artan, an Italian artist, in the year 1737. In a recess facing the *chimney* is a fine whole length figure of Apollo, over which is the bust of a lady of the family, supported by Bacchus and Ceres. The following pictures are also in this room, and most of them whole lengths, viz. Charles the Twelfth King of Sweden, (original): Thomas, the second Lord Viscount Wenman, and his three daughters: a large Family piece, consisting of Sir Thomas Samwell, Baronet, his eldest son and three daughters: Sir William Fermor, ancestor to the present Earl of Pomfret, (Vandyck): Sir John Finett, by the same artist. This gentleman was bred in the court, where, by his wit, innocent mirth, and skill in composing songs, he became a great favorite of James the First. He was sent into France in 1614, on public concerns, and knighted the year following. In 1626, on the death of Sir Lewis Lewknor, to whom he had been an assistant, he was appointed master of the ceremonies, concerning which he wrote a curious book, now very scarce, intitled *Finetti Philoxenis*, which was published after his death in 1656; he also translated a work from the French, concerning the beginning, continuance, and decay of estates 1606. He died July 12, 1641, aged 70, and was buried in the Church of Saint Martin's in the Fields, London.

In this house was born, A.D. 1611, the celebrated JAMES HARRINGTON, who was son of Sir Sapcott Harrington, Knt. by Jane his wife, daughter of Sir William Samwell, Knt. He became a gentleman commoner of Trinity College Oxford, in 1629, where he was placed under the tuition of the famous William Chillingworth. He travelled into France, Germany, and Italy, but returned at the beginning of the Civil War, when he endeavoured, without success, to be elected a member of the House of Commons. In 1647, when the king was confined at Holdenby, near this place, he was appointed one of the grooms of his Majesty's bed-chamber. He attended his royal master in his several removes from Holdenby to Hurst Castle; and on all occasions, both before and after the king's death, spoke of him in terms of high commendation.

Some little time before the restoration Mr. Harrington, with some ingenious friends, assembled almost every night to project a scheme of Commonwealth-Government. The design was, that a third part of the house should be removed every year, by which mode the whole body would be changed every three years. He published several works both in verse and prose, the most remarkable of which is "the Commonwealth of Oceana," Lond. 1659, fol. He died the 11th Sept. 1677, aged 66; and was buried near Sir Walter Raleigh, in Saint Margaret's Church Westminster. In one of the apartments here is a portrait of *Mr. Harrington.* In the *Blue Drawing Room* is a very fine portrait by Honthurst, of the celebrated LUCY, *Countess of* BEDFORD, daughter of John Lord Harrington of Exton, and wife of Edward Earl of Bedford; she was a great heiress, but wasted both her own and her husband's fortune. She was a patroness of the wits of her age, and was much celebrated by some of them, particularly Dr. Donne. May dedicated his translation of the "Pharsalia" to her. At Woburn Abbey there is a picture of her in a fantastic habit in the attitude of dancing; and another very fine one by Honthurst. She was also a collector of antique medals.

*In the Library* are portraits of Queen Mary, wife to Philip King of Spain; Edward the Fourth; Edward the Sixth; James the

the First; Oliver Cromwell; Shakespeare; Buffandin, musician to the King of Poland; and two pictures of dead game.

In the *Dining Parlour* is a large and capital painting by Mercier, representing a group of Bacchanalians, being portraits of so many gentlemen.

In the *Drawing Room* is a descent from the cross on copper, in the style of Rembrandt.

The *Church*, situated near the mansion, is a small and ancient structure, consisting of one aile only. The inside is neat and well pewed, the east window of the chancel is of painted glass, inserted a few years since. In the chancel, on a mural marble monument, are inscriptions to the memory of Sir *Thomas Samwell*, the second baronet of the name, who, in the younger part of his life, having spent some years in visiting Holland, Flanders, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and France, finished his course in his own country, and died in 1757, aged 70.

In the chancel is an ancient alabaster monument, with an effigy in armour, of Sir *Richard Knightly*, Knt. and another of his lady, who was daughter of Sir John Spencer, Knt.

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## GUILSBOROUGH HUNDRED,

Denominated in Domesday Book *Gisleburgh Hundred and a half*, is bounded on the western side by the little Ouse river, which separates it from Leicestershire. This district is hilly, abounds in fine pastures, and nearly the whole of it consists of grazing lands. The weaving of tammies, shalloons, harrateens, and other worsted stuffs, used to be the principal employment of the inhabitants. But owing to the war this manufacture has greatly declined, and is now confined to the once flourishing village of East Haddon, and Long Buckby. This hundred contains the parishes of *Ashby* Cold, *Buckby* Long, *Clay Coaton*, *Cottesbrooke*, *Creaton* Great, *Crick*, *Guilsborough*, including the Hamlet

Hamlet of Nortoft, *Haddon* West, *Lilbourn, Naseby, Standford, Thornby, Watford,* including the Hamlet of Murcott, *Welford, Winwick, Yelvertoft;* and the hamlets of Coaton, Creaton Little, Elkington, and Hollowell.

Cold Ashby was the birth-place of Richard Knolles, an author whose labors have had the good fortune to be handed down to posterity, not only from their intrinsic merit, but with additional celebrity through the encomiums bestowed upon them by that profound scholar and critic, Dr. Johnson, in the Rambler. He became a student in the University of Oxford about the year 1560, was afterward elected fellow of Lincoln College, and subsequently appointed master of the free grammar-school of Sandwich, in Kent. An occupation allowing little avocation for literary pursuits, or leisure for composition; yet by assiduity and perseverance he found time to write, "The History of the Turks," &c. fol. published in 1610: a work of considerable merit, which was afterwards continued to the year 1677, by Sir Paul Ricaut, who resided some years as consul at Smyrna. Prior to bringing out this work, (the labors of twelve years,) Knolles had printed, in 1606, Bodin's six books of a Commonwealth. He wrote also the lives and conquests of the Ottoman kings; a discourse of the greatness of the Turkish empire, &c. and died in 1610.

Cottesbrook House, situated in a small park, a modern brick mansion, consisting of a body and two detached wings, is the residence of *Sir William Langham, Bart.* Of which family, the first that received the honour of knighthood, was Sir John Langham, a merchant and alderman of London, who, with the Lord Mayor, Sir John Gayer, were sent to the tower in 1647. After being liberated, Sir John was again committed, with Sir Abraham Reynardson, Knt. and Mayor, in 1648; for refusing to publish an act, entitled "An Act for the Exheredation of the Royal Line, the Abolishment of Monarchy in the Kingdom, and the Setting up of a Commonwealth." As a reward for his unshaken

unshaken loyalty, on the restoration, he was created a baronet by King Charles the Second.

In the south cross aile of Cold Ashby Church, on an altar tomb of black marble, are the recumbent effigies of a person in an alderman's gown, and a lady dressed in the costume of the time. The inscription states that this monument was erected to the memory of *Sir John Langham, Knt.* and *Bart.* some time alderman of London, who died May 13, 1671; and Dame Mary his wife, who died April 8, 1652. This right worthy knight founded and endowed, in 1651, an hospital in Cottesbrook, for two poor widowers, and six poor widows.

Guilsborough, which gives name to the hundred, is supposed to derive the appellation from a large Roman encampment in this parish, situated between the sources of the Nen and Avon. Like the generality of the camps made by the Romans, the form is a parallelogram, having the longest sides lying east and west, which are in length between five and six hundred feet, and the shortest north and south, are about three hundred.* The whole is encompassed by a single foss and vallum, and includes an area of nearly eight acres. It is supposed to have been a camp of the Proprætor Ostorius: and at present is known under the appellation of *borough hill,* but often called the *Burrows.* In this parish is a free school for the instruction of youth in English, writing, &c. and a free grammar-school founded and endowed by Sir John Langham, in 1668.

Guilsborough Hall, a large mansion, built at different periods, is the residence of William Zouch Lucas Ward, Esq. and from being seated on an eminence, forms a conspicuous object. Nearly close to the house is the parish church, with a lofty spire, which, from some points of view, completely unites with, and appears to form a part of the mansion. This was formerly the

* Bridges' Hist. of Northamptonshire, Vol. I. p. 566.

the seat of the Belchier family, one of whom, DALRIDGE-COUNT BELCHIER, was born here. He resided a good deal in Holland, and while there wrote a humorous comedy, called "See Me, and See Me not, written by Hans Beer Pot." This was much acted in the low countries by a company of performers, known by the name of Health-drinkers. Belchier also translated several works, and was author of some poems. He died in Flanders, 1621.

LILBORN, at the north-west angle of this hundred, has been already referred to, p. 4, and in the ninth volume of this work, p. 461, as a place of Roman antiquity. Either at this village, or in its vicinity, was the station *Tripontium*; though our antiquaries differ in opinion respecting it. Camden, by inverting the order in Antoninus's itinerary, places it at Towcester. Horsley prefers Bugby; but Gale and Stukeley are decisive in appropriating it to a spot on the bank of the Avon, in this neighbourhood.

It is rather singular, that the learned author of the Britannia should have omitted to notice, that a preceding antiquary,* whom he justly extols, had fixed on this spot as the Tripontium of the Itinerary, and had he continued his annotations, would doubtless have advanced his reasons for the opinion. From the discoveries, which at times have been made, it is very probable, the station occupied both the northern as well as the southern sides of the river, various Roman remains having been found at both places. For an account of the former, see the description already given of Leicestershire. Morton observes, that upon the banks of the Avon was anciently a castle, but by whom, or at what period erected, he does not inform us. There are

* Robert Talbot. Vid. "Annotationes in eam partem Itinerarii Antonini, quæ ad Britanniam pertinet," published at the end of the third volume of Leland's Itinerary.

are certain vestiges of what might be conjectured to be the site of a castle, but on a nearer examination, they will appear more to resemble a Roman fortification. The work is a square elevated area, containing about a quarter of an acre, with a foss and vallum, parts of which, on the eastern and western sides are still visible; at the south-east and south-west angles, are aggera, probably the sites of two pretoria. *The Round Hill,* so called from its conical shape, distant about a quarter of a mile from the Roman road, seems to be artificial, and as to its shape and size, is not dissimilar to *Berry-mount*, near Towcester. Camden observes, that some persons, under the expectation they should find treasure, made excavations into this hill, but were disappointed in finding only coals. From this circumstance he conjectured, it was thrown up as a land-mark, and endeavours to prove, it was customary to deposit under mounds of this kind, intended for demarcation, half burnt bones, potsherds, coals, &c.* But this is one of those vagaries, into which the minds of great philosophers, historians, and even antiquaries, are too prone to indulge, when deprived of the directory of facts, and consequently puzzled in the mazes of conjecture. Morton thinks the dimensions of this hill are too great, to admit of the opinion, that it is a tumulus, and the notion of coals having been found in it, he considers an idle tale, but supposes it was raised for the erection of a beacon or watch-tower on it.† Another tumulus, of a similar description, was some years ago levelled, under which were found charcoal, ashes, and burnt bones, whence it is conjectured, that near this place, a desperate battle was fought between the Saxons and the Danes.

NASEBY

* These artificial mounts, when raised for the purpose of making bounds and limits, are sometimes termed *Botontines,* from which it is supposed the English word *Buttings*, is derived ; both of which are of doubtful origin, and their etymology is yet a desideratum in the field of philology.

† Nat. Hist. of Northamptonshire, p. 507.

Naseby or *Navesby*, though a small village, is on many accounts interesting to the traveller, and will ever be conspicuous on the face of history. Its geological features naturally attract the attention of the observant philosopher; and the political importance connected with the military scenes displayed in its vicinity, must entitle it, in a peculiar manner, to topographical notice. An author, who had opportunities of making comparative remarks, says, "the village stands upon an eminence, supposed to be the highest ground in the kingdom."* Though this be probable, yet some of the author's reasons are rather more curious than satisfactory, viz. a statement of altimetrical height between this place and the Thames, at London, and thence to the level of the sea. It is observed, that no water runs into this lordship from any other quarter, and what runs out of it, on the eastern side, has its course towards the German Ocean; and that on the western, proceeds to the Irish Sea. No less than six springs rise in the village, and several others in the lordship, the waters issuing from which, are collected in reservoirs, on the declivous ground, and form valuable ponds. The lesser or what is termed the *upper Avon*, rises near the church, from a spring called the Avon-well; the Nen from another called the Chapel-well; and some have referred the source of the Welland to Naseby Field. One spring is of a petrifying quality, giving to wood, immersed in its waters, lapidean incrustations. The parish consists mostly of open commonable fields, and is supposed to measure, taking in every angle, from eighteen to twenty miles in circumference. The local historian, who has been minute in his observations, and laudably assiduous in his enquiries, states, that *thirty-nine* or forty parish churches may at different times, in a clear day, be seen by the naked eye, from one station, an old windmill-bank, in Naseby Field. These are supposed, on the occasion, to be irradiated with the sun's light, and the range of their distance, is from one to twenty-two miles.



* Martin's Hist. and Antiq. of Naseby, p. 8.

Naseby was formerly a market-town, a charter having been granted to the inhabitants, in the fifth year of King John. In an area of the village is still standing the mercate-cross. Here was formerly a considerable weaving manufacture of worsted, called stuffs, harrateens and tammies; but the immense increase of the cotton trade, and the general prevalence of muslins and calicoes, has been a great drawback upon the worsted manufactures in general, and have nearly destroyed them. By the returns made under the population act, the number of houses in 1801, was 105, and inhabitants 538.

Adjacent to this village, on *Naseby-Field,* was fought that ever memorable battle, between the royal and parliamentarian forces, in which, according to Lord Clarendon, were lost both the king and kingdom. A particular account of this engagement, has already been published in Vol. IX. p. 428, &c. The conflict occurred on the 14th of June, 1645; and after it all the royal garrisons successively capitulated to the parliamentary soldiers.

Where yon blue field scarce meets our streaming eyes,
A fatal name for England, *Naseby* lies.
There hapless Charles beheld his fortunes cross'd,
His forces vanquished, and his kingdom lost.
There gallant Lisle, a mark for thousands stood,
And Dormer sealed his loyalty in blood;
Whilst down yon hill's steep side with headlong force,
Victorious Cromwell chaced the northern horse,
Hence anarchy our church and state profan'd,
And tyrants in the mask of freedom reign'd,
In times like these, when party bears command,
And faction scattered discord through the land,
Let these sad scenes an useful lesson yield,
Lest future *Nasebys* rise in every field."*

Stanford Church contains several monuments erected to the

* These elegant lines, written by Dr. Bennet, late Bishop of Cork, are placed in an alcove, at Rushton Hall, situated on an eminence, which commands a view of Naseby Field.

the memory of the *Cave* family. Under a canopy of white marble, against the north wall of the chancel, is the effigy of a man; also a Latin inscription, commemorative of *Richard Cave*, eldest son of Sir Thomas and Lady Eleanor Cave, who died on the Continent, in the nineteenth year of his age, July 26. 1606. Adjoining the above, within the communion rails, is a magnificent monument over an altar-tomb, on which are the effigies of a knight and his lady, and a Latin inscription indicates that this memorial was raised by an affectionate and disconsolate widow, to perpetuate the name of Sir *Thomas Cave*, son of Roger Cave and Margaret Cecil. He died Sept. 6, 1613. An epicedium, in elegiac verse, indecorously puns upon the name of *Cave*. In the middle aile, on an *altar-tomb* of white marble, are the figures of Sir *Thomas Cave*, and his lady Elizabeth; and at the feet their six sons and eight daughters. He died Sept. 4, 1558. Several brasses and inscriptions on flat stones, are commemorative of other persons of the same family. *Stanford Hall* has already been described in Vol. IX. p. 461.

Watford Church contains several handsome monuments to the memory of the Clerke family. In the chancel is one of black and white marble, having the entablature supported by two columns of the Corinthian order. An inscription records the memory of *Sir George Clerke, knt.* descended from the Clerkes of Willoughby, in the county of Warwick, who died January 30, 1648. As a testimony of conjugal affection, Barbara, his disconsolate relict, caused this monument to be erected; and departed this life, in the assurance of a better, Feb. 2, 1655. Her remains were also deposited beneath the same tomb.

Sulby Abbey, in the parish of Welford, was founded for the monks of the Premonstratensian order, by William de Wideville, or Wivill, lord of Welford manor, about the year 1155. It seems to have been liberally endowed, for at the dissolution, the annual revenues were stated at 305*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* which were granted in exchange for the manor of Holdenby,

to Christopher Hatton, Esq. on whose demise the latter devolved to the crown.

In West Haddon Field is an artificial mount, called *Oster-Hill,* under which, if credence be due to the tradition of the neighbourhood, were interred several officers, who fell in a dreadful engagement, fought here, between the royal and baronial troops. At their interment, the soldiers struck a long spear into the ground, and heaped up earth over the bodies around it, to the height of the spear. However improbable this part of the story may appear, there can be no doubt but the hill is a sepulchral tumulus; and from the name and other concomitant circumstances, it has been conjectured, a monument to the memory of the celebrated Roman Pro-prætor, *Publius Ostorius.* That he died in this island, though not in battle, with the fatigues of warfare, is asserted by Tacitus, but the place of his death or sepulture, has not been recorded in history, and all attempts to ascertain this curious fact must therefore rest on conjectural probability. This place, however, seems to have had some connection with the Roman general, whilst the works at Guilsborough, and in the vicinity of Daventry, are allowed to have been of his erection. The long chain of fortified posts he formed along that course of the Watling-street, which extended through this part of the kingdom, furnishes additional and corroborative evidence favorable to the opinion of his interment here.

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## ROTHWELL HUNDRED,

Separated from Leicestershire by the river Welland, at the time of the conqueror's survey, was divided into two districts, viz. *Stotfield,* which comprised the western, and Rodeville the eastern part of it. In the twenty-fourth year of Edward the First's

First's reign, both occur under the name of Rothwell. It contains the parishes of *Arthingworth, Bowden*-Little, including the parish of St. Nicholas, the hamlet of Little Oxenden, and part of the parish of St. Mary's, *Braybrooke, Clipstone, Desborough, Draughton,* East *Farndon, Glendon-Barfoot, Harrington, Hasleheech, Hothorpe, Kelmarsh, Loddingtan, Maidwell, Marston-Trussel, Orton,* Magna *Oxenden, Rothwell, Rushton,* All Saints and St. Peter's, *Sibbertoft, Sulby, Thorpe Malsor,* and *Thorpe Labenham,* or Underwood, extra-parochial.

In Braybrooke Church is a curious, and elaborately decorated *monument,* which escaped the notice of Bridges, but an engraving of it was afterwards made at the expence of the late Lord Howard, and given to the purchasers of Bridges's History. The same nobleman also allowed Mr. Nichols, to take impressions from the plate for Vol. II. of his History of Leicestershire, wherein it is said to have been raised for Sir *Nicholas Griffin, knt.* who died in 1509, aged 34. The monument, however, appears to have been erected by Sir Thomas Griffin, eldest son of the former, who died in the eleventh year of Elizabeth's reign. The design is completely in the style of that age, and displays an affectation of classical architecture. On a base, are raised several pilasters, having the widest parts near the capitals, and these support an entablature, crowned with pedestals, shields, crests, and other ornaments. In the centre is a coat of arms, with nine quarterings, and having griffins for supporters. Other armorial insignia are attached to it. Under the upper window of the south aile, is an effigy in *wood,* of a *knight,* cross-legged, with a shield on his left arm. This is supposed to represent Sir *Thomas Latimer, knt.* who is recorded in history, for his zeal and attachment to the sect of the Lollards, who rose up in the reign of Richard the Second, and distinguished themselves by their zealous opposition to the superstitious doctrines, and ecclesiastical tyranny of the papal hierarchy. His will, which bears date Sept. 13, 1401, is singularly curious. "In the name of God, &c. I Thomas Latymer, a Braybrooke, a fals knyt to God, thanking

God of his merci, havyinge syche minde as he vouchittsaff; desiryng that Goddes will be fulfilled in me, and in all Godys that he hath taken me to kepe; and to that make my testament in this manner. Furst, I knowlyche on unworthye to bequethyn to him any thing of my power; and therefore I pray to him mekely of his grace that he will take so pore a present as my wreeched soule ys, into his merci, through the beseching of hys blessyd Modyr and hys holy Seynts; and my wreeched body to be buried, where that ever I dye, in the next churche yerde God vouchsafe, and nant in the chirche; but in the utterest corner as he that ys unworthi to lyn therein, save the merci of God. And that there non manner of cost, don about my berying, neyther in mete, neyther in dryngge nor in no other thing, but it be to any such one that needeth it, after the law of God; save twey tapersof wex; and anon as I be dede put me in the erthe, &c."* Sir Thomas died in the same year the will is dated.

In this village was born Robert de Braybrooke, who was advanced to the see of London, and afterwards was Lord Chancellor of England, for the short space of six months, and died A. D. 1404. "*Braybroke Castelle,* upon Wyland Water was made and embattled by license, that one Braybroke a nobleman in those days did obtaine. Mr Griphine is now owner of it. He is a man of fair landes."†

Kelmarsh Hall, the seat of *William Hanbury, Esq.* in the parish of Kelmarsh, is a large mansion, the east front of which is modern, and consists of a body and two wings, connected by offices. The west front is dissimilar, older, and less ornamental. The pleasure grounds are pleasingly diversified with the contrasting effects of wood and water. The proprietor possesses a fine collection of paintings.

In the parish of Great Oxendon is one of those phenomena, which confound philosophy upon its own principles, and after the minutest investigation, leaves it to ponder over the multifarious shades of difference, that occur in the various

* Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. 2.

† Leland's Itinerary, Vol. 1, p. 13.

rious assimilations between cause and effect. The belfry of the church-tower measures eleven feet three inches, by nine feet three inches. In this story of the tower, where the bells are hung, this centrum phonocumpticum produces a remarkable polysyllabic *echo*. To a person standing at the given distance of six hundred and seventy-three feet on the western part of the elevated ground, on which the church is built, it returns distinctly thirteen syllables, uttered by the voice. A return, but not to an equal extent, is obtainable by a person speaking from the top of an adjacent hill, fronting the south side; but scarcely any resonancy is found on the eastern or northern sides of the tower. Morton gives a particular statement of the different effects produced at various distances and places.* To account for this, and the great variety of phonic aberrations, from the established laws of sound, would be a task referable to the oracle at Delphos. Sounds, like light, are not only extensively diffused, but frequently reflected; yet the laws of this kind of reflection, not being so easily cognizable, are not so easily understood, as those of light. All at present known is, that sound is principally reflected by hard bodies, and the circumstance of their being hollow sometimes increases the reverberation. Without this previous acquaintance of the generally supposed cause of echo, no art can make an artificial one, and some persons who have bestowed great labor and expence upon such a project, have only erected shapeless buildings, whose silence or inarticulate reverberation was a mortifying lecture upon the imbecillity of such abortive attempts. Under an arch, supported by two columns of the Corinthian order, against the south wall of the chancel, on an *altar tomb*, are *effigies* of a man and woman, with two children, and an inscription records the memory of *Katharine Lady Gorges*, daughter of Sir Robert Osborn, of Kelmarsh. She was first married to Edward Haslewood, Esq. and afterwards to Ed-

 ward

* Nat. Hist. of Northampton, p. 357. Since his time the effect has been considerably diminished, by alterations which have been made in the Belfry windows.

ward Lord Gorges, baron of Dundalk, who being the survivor, erected this monument as a tribute of his affection. She died March 10, 1633.

A plain stone slab, with a short inscription, cannot fail to read a "siste, viator," to the votaries of science; it is sacred to the memory of the *Rev. John Morton*, who was formerly rector of this parish. During his residence here, he wrote and published "The Natural History of Northamptonshire."

At ROTHWELL,* called ROWELL, a parish which gives name to the hundred, was previous to the dissolution, a *Priory*, for Nuns of the Augustine order. The founder is not mentioned, but probably he was one of the Clare family, whose successors in the manor, appear upon record as its patrons. This was a considerable-market town, but the market has been long discontinued. The market-house is however still standing, and from the style of the building is an object of curiosity. It was begun by Sir Thomas Tresham, but owing to his death, was never completed; the third or upper story, which formed part of the plan, not having been built. The remains of the present structure, which is fast going to decay, consists of a square basement story, with large pointed entrance arches to an area, constituting a market-place; and over, a suit of rooms, with wide square-headed windows. The north front has an advanced gateway, reaching to the height of the building, the whole ornamented with pilasters of the Doric order, which support an entablature, and on the architrave, under the cornice, are shields charged with the arms of many families in the county, with the following incription round the frize: "*Thomæ Tresami militis fuit hoc opus in gratiam dulcis patriæ fecit suæ tribusque*

* This place is so denominated from two remarkable springs; the water of one called Shotwell, is of a strong petrifying quality; and in the other, are frequently found, more especially in the month of March, numerous small bones, conjectured by some naturalists to be those of young frogs; hence it goes by the name of *Bone*-well.

*que Northamptoniæ vel maxime hujusque vicini sibi pagi. Nihil præter bonum commune quæsivit, nihil præter decus perenne amicorum. Male qui interpretatur dignus haud tanto est bono. An. Dom. millessimo quingentessimo septuagessimo septimo.*" This THOMAS TRESHAM received the honor of knighthood at Kenilworth Castle, from Queen Elizabeth; but zealously attached to the Romish persuasion, he incurred the displeasure of the court, and he appears to have been several times taken into custody, for recusancy, and from his last detainder, was discharged December 8, 1597. He studied architecture, and displayed considerable taste in that elegant science: besides this market-hall, he built Liveden-house, now demolished, and probably several others. He died in the third year of James the First. His son and successor, FRANCIS TRESHAM, was still more strenuous in the Catholic cause; and though a principal projector in the treasonable and nefarious design, termed the gun-powder plot, yet providentially became the instrument of its discovery. For he sent the letter to Lord Montegle, who had married Elizabeth Tresham, his sister, which contained the information that first induced a suspicion, and then led to the detection of the design. Having been attainted with the other conspirators, he was apprehended and committed to the tower, where he died, as some have suspected, by means of poison.

In the church are several monumental memorials of the Tresham, Lant, Humble, Lane, and Hill families. Against the north wall of the chancel, is a white marble monument, having an arched pediments, with urns, supported by columns of the Ionic order. A tablet beneath, has an inscription sacred to the memory of *Andrew Lant, Esq.* of Thorpe Underwood, lord of Rothwell manor, who died Jan. 16, 1694; and Judith, his wife, who died Dec. 31, 1705.

RUSHTON CHURCH contains a handsome monument, erected in 1804, commemorative of Charles, fifth Viscount, and Baron Cullen, of the county of Donegal, in Ireland, who died June 7, 1802; and Sophia, Viscountess Cullen, who died July 13,

1802. This was the tribute of filial affection from their son, the Hon. William Cockayne, whose virtues are probably recorded, by this time, on the same sepulchral remembrancer; he having died at his seat, in this place, Oct. 8, 1809.

Rushton Hall, in this parish, is beautifully situated on a gentle declivity, sloping to the river Ise, which passing under a handsome bridge of two arches, gives a pleasing effect to the diversified plantations. The recent spirited and tasteful occupier the Hon. William Cockayne, second son of the late Viscount Cullen, had made several alterations, and projected further improvements; but to these the arbitrator of all human events put a sudden veto, by calling him prematurely from this stage of existence.

Fox Hill, in the parish of Sibertoft, is a remarkable elevation, encompassed with several lesser hills. A place called *Castle-yard*, is supposed to be the site of an ancient castle.

The village of Thorpe Malsor, gave birth to one of our early English Antiquaries, Robert Talbot, who was born here about the latter end of the fifteenth century. He received a classical education at Winchester, whence he removed to New College, Oxford, and became fellow of that society, in 1523. A prebendal stall in the cathedral of Wells, was presented to him in 1541; and in 1546, he was instituted to the rectory of his native place. In the year following, he was appointed to a prebend, with the office of treasurer in the church of Norwich, where he died the latter end of August, 1558, and was interred in the cathedral of that city. He is said to have been well skilled in English antiquities, which gained him the esteem of many learned men. He appears to have been the friend and associate of Leland, who speaks of his antiquarian knowledge, and praises him for his great care and assiduity, in collecting scarce and valuable books, manuscripts, and other literary monuments. His collection he bequeathed to New College library. Amongst others of his works, he left annotations in Latin, on that part of the Itinerary of Antoninus, that relates to Great Britain, of which

Camden

Camden in his Britannia, and Burton in his Commentary, seem to have made considerable use. These have since been published by *Hearne*, in his edition of Leland.*

## ORLINGBURY HUNDRED,

Is considerably diversified in its surface, and many of the distant views are both pleasing and extensive. Several parishes in this hundred appertained to that of *Maleslea*, till the twenty-fourth of Edward the First, when they became incorporated with Orlingbury, which in its present state comprises the villages of *Brixworth, Broughton, Cranley, Hanington, Hardwick, Harrowdens, Great* and Little, *Isham, Lamport*, with the hamlet of *Hanging Houghton*, and chapelry of Faxton, *Old* or *Wold, Orlingbury, Pytchely, Scaldwell*, and *Walgrave.*

Brixworth is a large respectable village, on the southern verge of the hundred. Rockingham forest, though now many miles distant, formerly extended to this parish; and in the fifteenth of Henry the Third, permission was granted to Simon Fitz-Simon, the lord of the manor, to "plant a small spinney adjoining his garden," on express condition of "not interfering with the liberties of the forest." Towards the close of the same reign, he procured for himself and heirs, the more valuable privilege of a weekly market, every Tuesday at this place; and for an annual fair, continued for three days, commencing on the eve of St. Boniface.

How long these customs existed, there is no data by which to determine, but it seems not unreasonable to suppose, they ceased with the extinction of the family, to whom they were granted. The base of a *cross*, on an ascent of two or three steps is

* Roberti Talboti Vita, published at the end of the third volume of Leland's Itinerary.

is still standing, and was probably the ancient butter or market cross. An annual fair on the Monday after the ascension, has been revived within these few years. About half a mile to the south-west of the village, is the *site* of the old manor house of Woolhage, in which Sir James Harrington founded a chauntry, and endowed it with lands in Lancashire. The *church* presents more of the antique in its materials than in its architecture, though the semicircular staircase projecting from the tower, is a singular and almost unique appendage. The south aile is not above half the length of the nave, but from vestiges of arches, appears originally to have run parallel with it. Under a low arch lies the mutilated *figure* of a knight-templar, supposed to be Sir *John Verdon.* A curious relic of gothic superstition has been very recently discovered over the altar tomb of *Adam de Taunton,* who died, possessed of this living, in 1322. A large square stone protruded from the wall, surmounted by a rude head, on removing which, a circular aperture was disclosed, wherein was deposited a wooden box, containing part of a human jaw bone, and a thick substance, slightly elastic. A chauntry was founded and endowed by William Curteys, in the chapel of the Virgin Mary, erected in the church-yard, for the "souls of himself and wife, and Simon and Maud, his father and mother." Not far from the church-yard, are slight traces of trenches; and two or three tumuli are seen in the vicinity.

Brixworth Hall, once the seat of the Nichols's and Raynsford's, but now of Walter Strickland, Esq. is a plain family mansion, surrounded by the village, from which it is screened by plantations, and enclosed within a wall.

Broughton. Edward Bagshaw, a bencher of the temple, and of considerable eminence in his profession, resided here, and was the author of "the Life and Death of Mr. Robert Bolton." 1633, 4to. a justly celebrated divine, and many years rector of this parish. Edward Bagshaw, a learned polemic, was son of the above, and born here; after receiving an university

sity education, he was appointed second master of Westminster school, but being discharged for disrespectful behaviour to the first master, Dr. Busby, he entered into orders, and became vicar of Ambroseden, and chaplain to the Earl of Anglesea. Chagrined by the tardy approach of preferment, or impelled by the dictates of conscience, he renounced the establishment, and settling in London, presided several years over a dissenting congregation; but was at length committed to Newgate for refusing the oath of allegiance, where he lingered nearly half a year, and died Dec. 28, 1671. He was buried in the celebrated dissenting cemetery in Bunhill Fields, where a monument has been erected to his memory, with an inscription by Dr. J. Owen, commemorative of his learning, patience, and sufferings. His publications, which are voluminous, consist of Latin dissertations and controversial tracts, and are enumerated in Wood's Athenæ Oxoniensis.

Hanington. Francis Godwin, an eminent prelate, and distinguished writer, was born here in 1561, his father, Thomas Godwin, being then rector of this parish, and subsequently Bishop of Bath and Wells. In his sixteenth year he was entered of Christ's Church Oxford, where he soon became conspicuous for native force of intellect, and unwearied assiduity in its cultivation. Whilst very young, he wrote "The Man in the Moon, or a Discourse of a Voyage thither, by Domingo Gonsales, 8vo." This was thought an highly ingenious philosophical fiction, but aware of its being fraught with ideas irreconcileable with the reigning system of the schools, his diffidence restricted its perusal to a few confidential friends, and it was not given to the world till after his decease. His "Nuncius Inanimatus, Utopia," 8vo. a Latin treatise on the modes of conveying intelligence speedily and secretly, in which is obviously anticipated the principle of the modern telegraph, is another of his juvenile productions, though many years elapsed ere he had courage to submit it to the ordeal of public opinion. At what time the history

history and antiquities of his native country first engaged his attention, is uncertain, but in 1590 he explored the topographical treasures of Wales, in company with Camden, and having a few years after resigned to his celebrated coadjutor the general enquiries connected with this subject, he confined himself to the ecclesiastical department, but finding his labours even here, superseded by Fox, he limited his researches to ecclesiastical biography, and in 1601 produced "A Catalogue of the Bishops of England, since the first planting of religion in this island; together with a brief history of their lives and memorable actions, so near as can be gathered out of antiquity." This work formed a new era in British biography, and Queen Elizabeth very appropriately rewarded this tribute to episcopacy, by bestowing the vacant mitre of Landaff on the author, and permitting him, in consideration of its slender revenues, to retain his previous preferments. In 1617 he received from King James the more lucrative see of Hereford, which he held till his death in 1633, at the advanced age of seventy-three. He published a corrected and enlarged edition of the "Catalogue;" in 1615 reprinted it in Latin, and afterwards added "An Appendix ad Comment, &c." It was re-published, with large corrections, &c. in 1743, by Dr. Richardson. His "Rerum Anglicarum Henrico 8, Edwardo 6, and Maria Regnantibus, Annales," fol. after reaching three editions, was translated into English by his son Morgan Godwin, under the title of "Annals of England."

Great Harrowden, an insignificant village between Wellingborough and Kettering, was the residence of the noble family of Vaux, for upwards of three centuries. During the bloody contention which sprung from the rival claims of the red and white rose, Sir William Vaux warmly espoused the cause of the unfortunate Henry, for which he was attainted on the accession of Edward, and his estates confiscated. They were, however, restored to his son, Sir Nicholas, by Henry the Seventh, with whom he was a great favorite. In the succeed-

ing reign he filled various important appointments, and in 1523 was created Baron Vaux of Harrowden. He lived in great splendor, and was highly accomplished; many of the poetical pieces are ascribed to him, in "the paradise of dainty devices." His second wife was Anne, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Thomas Green, the last representative of a family long famed in this county, for their immense wealth and local influence. The title became extinct in 1661, on the demise of Edward, the fourth lord, who bequeathed his estates to Nicholas Knolles, his wife's son, by the Earl of Banbury. The present manor house, a spacious handsome edifice, pleasantly situated, has long stood unoccupied, and is the property of Earl Fitzwilliam, who inherits it from the late patriotic Marquis of Rockingham, by whose ancestor, the Honorable Thomas Wentworth, it was erected.

In the church is a neat mural monument for Lady Mary Milbank, daughter of the first marquis, and the names of several children of Nicholas Earl of Banbury are recorded on plain slabs in the chancel.

Lamport Hall, midway from Northampton to Harborough, is the seat of Sir Justinian Isham, Bart. and has been in the possession of his family from the close of the sixteenth century. The front of the house, towards the road, was designed by John Webb, son-in-law of Inigo Jones, but the one facing the village is in the Elizabethan style. On the north side of the church is a chapel, or burial-place, for the Ishams, abounding with mural mementos. In this parish is the small chapelry of Faxton, the church of which contains a fine monument to Sir *Augustine Nicoles*. It is composed of black and white marble, with an effigy representing him in his judge's robes, kneeling before a desk, on which is placed a book; and on the right is a statue of Justice, and on the left another of Wisdom. He was born at Ecton, studied law in the Middle Temple, and was appointed one of the justices in the court of common pleas. He died whilst on the circuit at Kendal, in 1616.

Pytchely, or Pightesley Hall, a small but venerable mansion, built by the same architect as Holdenby Palace, belongs to the Rev. Sir John Knightley, Bart. and is rented by the gentlemen of the Pytchely Hunt.

Orlingbury. The late Rev. Owen Manning, the son of Mr. Owen Manning of this place, was born August 11, 1721. Being educated at Queen's College Cambridge, he was elected in 1741 to a fellowship there, in right of which he had the living of St. Botolph, Cambridge. In 1760 Dr. Thomas, Bishop of Lincoln, gave him the Prebend of Milton Ecclesia in the Church of Lincoln; and in 1763 he was presented by Dr. Green, Dean of Salisbury, to the vicarage of Godalming in Surrey, where he resided in the conscientious discharge of his professional duty till his death, Sept. 9, 1801, in the 81st year of his age. The literary world are indebted to Mr. Manning for completing the Saxon Dictionary, which was begun by his friend Edward Lye, Rector of Yardley Hastings in this county, who died in 1767. After several years close application, Mr. Manning published this work in 1775, having made large additions thereto, with a preface and grammar; and, in an appendix subjoining, fragments of Ulphilas's Version of the Epistle to the Romans; sundry Saxon Charters; a Sermon on Antichrist; a fragment of the Saxon Chronicle; and other instruments. He also published Illustrations of King Alfred's Will. Great part of Mr. Manning's life was devoted to the compilation of "The History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey," which the loss of his sight prevented the completion of. Since his death, the first volume of this work has been prepared for the press, for the benefit of his family, with a continuation to the present time, by William Bray, Esq. F. S. A. who has kindly and liberally undertaken to finish this useful, but laborious publication. Two Volumes of it in folio have been published.

## HAMFORDSHOE HUNDRED,

Or, as it is denominated in Domesday Book, *Andferdsdesho*, and *Anvesdesou*, is separated on the east from the hundred of Higham-Ferrers, by the Nen, and from that of Wimersley, by the same river on the south. This hundred contains the parishes of *Doddington* Great, *Earl's Barton, Ecton, Holcott, Mears Ashby, Sywell, Wellingborough*, and *Wilby*.

Earl's-Barton. The church of this parish is a singular and very curious example of ancient architecture. The tower, in particular, displays some very unusual features. It is divided into four stories, each of which is constructed with upright stones, disposed like beams or wood work, with the spaces between every two filled up with small stones, mortar, and rubble. The arches and columns are also peculiar: some of the former, are very small, and formed by one stone; whilst the latter are larger at the centre than at their bases and capitals. The western door-way, that on the south side, and a small one leading into the chancel, have all semi-circular arches, with various ancient mouldings. Many parts of the interior are also entitled to the particular notice of the architectural antiquary. The church occupies part of the area of an ancient castle: and to the north are some deep ditches of the keep.

Ecton. In this parish is Ecton-House, the seat of Samuel Isted, Esq. The house, a handsome modern stone building, is surrounded by pleasant plantations, and grounds of a diversified appearance. This place gave birth to the Rev. Peter Whalley, who was first appointed a Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford; and afterwards chosen master of the grammar-school of Christ's Hospital. Whilst engaged here, he was selected by a committee of the gentlemen of Northamptonshire, to arrange and superintend the publication of Bridges's History of that county. This work, after nearly fifty years preparation, was

published in 2 vols. folio, 1791. [See an account of this work in the List of Books at the end.] Mr. Whalley was also author of "A Vindication of the Evidences and Authenticity of the Gospels." An inquiry into the learning of Shakespeare. He was also editor of a new edition of Ben Jonson's works, with notes, in seven volumes, 8vo. He died in 1791.

## WELLINGBOROUGH.

This town, by the author of Parochial Antiquities, has been confounded with Wendlebury in Oxfordshire, and is by him supposed to derive its name from the Teutonic term, *vandalen*, or the Saxon *wandrian*, to wander, whence come the words vandali, wandalens, &c. But with much greater probability, the place obtained its present appellation from the fountains of water, or wells, with which it abounds. A mineral spring, here denominated *Redwell*, was formerly of considerable celebrity for its medicinal effects. It issues out at the foot of the hill in an open field, about half a mile north-west of the town. The water is impregnated with a small portion of carbonate of iron, and is a light, sparkling, mild chalybeate. The spring was more resorted to formerly, than at present. In the year 1626, it is said that King Charles and his Queen resided in tents, a whole season, for the benefit of drinking it pure at its source.* The name being Saxon implies, the place was of some note in that period, when it appears to have been destroyed by the Danes. After the Conquest, it occurs among the numerous possessions annexed to the abbey of Croyland, in Lincolnshire; and at the suit of the monks belonging to that house, was constituted a market town, by a charter from King John. It is principally situated on a red sand stone rock, of which material the houses are generally built. The town is disposed along the slope of a hill, nearly a mile to the north of the river Nen. Greater part of the houses having been erected, subsequently to

* Bridges' Hist. of Northamptonshire, Vol. II. p. 149.

to a dreadful fire, which happened in the year 1738, are neatly built: and from the situation of the ground, the streets are generally clean. The church is a large building, having at its west end a tower, surmounted by a handsome spire. The roofs of the ailes, chancel, and chantry chapels, are decorated with various carved work; and on each side the chancel are three stalls, like those in cathedral choirs. The eastern window is richly ornamented with tracery, and sculpture in stone; and the window-case is enriched with several heads, and emblematic figures. In the window is some stained glass, with figures of the Virgin Mary, clad in a blue robe, with a crown on her head, and the infant Jesus on her lap. Beneath the eastern end of the church is a crypt: and against the north wall of the chancel is a mural slab, with this inscription, "*William Batley*, Architect. All worldly fabrics are but vanity to heavenly buildings, for eternity. Sepul. Nov. 30, 1674, æt 80." This church had a guild to the honour of the Blessed Virgin, the revenues of which fraternity amounting annually to 5*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* were, in the second year of Edward the Sixth, appropriated towards the erection and endowment of a *free grammar-school*. The stipend for a master and usher was 20*l.* per annum; but in case there should be two masters, one for teaching Latin, and another for instruction in English, the former to have an annual allowance of twenty marks, and the latter of twenty nobles. Here is also a large charity school, and two meeting-houses, for the public worship of Independent Dissenters. According to the returns made to parliament, the number of houses is 662, and inhabitants 3325; of which number 848 were stated to be employed in trade. Formerly a considerable manufacture of worsted stuffs, as tammies, harrateens, &c. employed numbers of the inhabitants; but owing to war and other causes, it has long been on the decline.

## HIGHAM FERRERS HUNDRED,

Which is bounded on the east by parts of Huntingdon and Bedford shires, was at the time of the Norman Survey called Hecham, afterwards corrupted into Hegham, and now into Higham; and receives the additional appellation from the family of Ferrers, who were its ancient lords. This hundred contains the parishes of *Bozeat, Chelveston*, cum Caldecot, *Easton Maudit, Hargrave, Higham-Ferrers, Irchester, Newton-Bromshold, Raunds, Ringstead, Rushden, Stanwick, Strixton*, and *Woolaston*.

East of Castle-Ashby is Easton Mauduit, where was formerly a large mansion, belonging to the *Yelvertons:* but this has been wholly destroyed. In the church are some curious monuments to different persons of that family. One records the memory of Sir *Christopher Yelverton*, Knt. who died Nov. 1611, aged 76, and Margaret his lady. Their figures are placed recumbent, and emblazoned with paintings. Over them are two arched canopies of marble, supported by six square pillars. Eight figures of female children, and two of male, are attached to the side of the tomb. Sir Christopher was Sergeant at Law in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and Speaker of the Parliament in the 39th year of that queen's reign. Another monument is for Sir Henry Yelverton, son of the former; whose effigy represents him in judicial robes, and at his side is a figure of his Lady, *Anne*, daughter of Sir William Twisden. Over them is a vast canopy, with statues on the top, and supported by two large figures of Alnasmen or Priests, in black gowns, with hoods, and having great cushions on their heads. Attached to the plinth are figures of four boys and five girls.

Sir Henry Yelverton, was born at this place June 29, 1566, and after studying some time at Oxford, removed to Gray's Inn, where he became celebrated for his skill in the English laws. He was first made solicitor, and soon afterwards attorney-general to King James the First. He, however, lost the court favour

favour on several occasions; once, refusing to plead against his patron, the Earl of Somerset, who was to be tried for the supposed murder of Sir Thomas Overbury, he was sent to the tower, but was soon released, and reinstated in his office. Again he was discharged, fined, and committed to the tower, for having passed some clauses in the charter of the city of London, not consonant to the royal warrant. The Duke of Buckingham, who had been his majesty's instigator on these occasions, suddenly changed his opinion of Sir Henry, visited him in prison, procured his release, obtained for him once more the king's favour, and he was first made judge of the king's bench, and then of the common pleas, in which station he died, A.D. 1625. A few writings, under his name, are extant. Several of his speeches in parliament; reports of divers special cases in the court of king's bench, Lond. 1661. The rights of the people of England, concerning impositions, Lond. 1679. From these writings he appears to have been an acute and able lawyer; and, considering the tone and temper of the times, a friend and supporter of constitutional liberty.

On a black marble tablet, between marble pilasters of the Corinthian order, which support a monument on the north side of the chancel, is a long Latin inscription, commemorative of the Right Reverend Father in God, THOMAS MORTON, who was successively a Canon of York, Dean of Glocester, Winchester, Bishop of Chester, Lichfield, and Coventry, and lastly of Durham; in which see he died, A.D. 1659, in the 95th year of his age, and the 44th of his episcopate.

An inscription on a tablet between two Ionic columns, records the memory of CHARLES LONGUEVILLE, *Baron Grey of Ruthin*, who engaged in the Civil War, died prematurely at Oxford in the year 1643; and was buried in the Chapel of Christchurch College in that university. Other mural stones are commemorative of *Sir Christopher Yelverton, Knt.* and *Bart.* who died December 4, 1654; and of Ann his wife, who died 1670. *Susanna, Baroness Grey of Ruthin*, who died January 28, 1679. *Charles, Lord Grey of Ruthin*, who died May 17,

in the same year. A neat monument records the memory of *Henry Viscount Longueville*, who lost his life while defending the royal cause against the rebels, in the time of Charles the First. The Church of Easton consists of a nave, two ailes, a chancel, and western tower. The latter is surmounted by a light tapering spire, which is connected to the tower by flying buttresses.

## HIGHAM FERRERS,

A TOWN which gives name to the hundred, is situated on a rocky elevation, abounding with springs. It is about half a mile distant from the north-eastern bank of the Nen, and is a place of considerable note and antiquity. Northward of the church, is a spot called the *castle-yard*, the site of a castle, which is supposed to have been erected by one of the Ferrers family. But more probably by *Thomas, Earl of Lancaster*, son of Edmund, younger son of Henry the Third; who obtained this lordship in the fiftieth year of that monarch's reign. In the fifth year of Edward the Second he was at the head of the associated nobility, who, under the pretext of supporting public liberty, demanded and obtained the dismissal of Piers de Gaveston, the royal favourite. Afterwards he took the lead in the armed confederacy, which brought the two De Spensers to justice, and dethroned the king. The ground of the castle-yard is divided into two parts, by a deep foss, running from east to west. That on the south side contains about two acres: the only remains are hollows, heaps of ruins, and foundations of walls. The northern division, both in extent and strength, appears to have been the most considerable work. It comprises nearly four acres, having on the east side a very large moat, about fifty feet wide, and five hundred feet long; and another on the south side of similar dimensions. This, it is conjectured, was properly the site of the castle; and the space to the south, the situation of the advanced and covering works.

The *church*, a handsome structure, consists of a nave, chancel,

cel, and ailes to the south and north. Those of the chancel are divided from it by screens, decorated with carving. On each side the chancel are ten stalls: under the first, on the right, is a carved head of Archbishop Chichele: and on the first, to the left, an angel holding a shield, impaling the arms of Chichele, with those of the see of Canterbury. On the rest are carved various fanciful, and emblematic devices. At the west end of the nave, on a handsome embattled tower, is raised a finely proportioned hexagonal spire, with crockets running up the angles. The greater part of the present spire is not two centuries old; for the old spire, and part of the tower falling down, the re-edification was begun in 1632, by subscription, to which Archbishop Laud appears to have been a liberal contributor. In that year articles of agreement were drawn up between the Corporation and Richard Atkins, mason, of Higham Ferrers, by which the latter engaged, in consideration of receiving CXXXV*l.* to rebuild the steeple, then raised as far as the bell floor; so that the said steeple should be from the ground to the battlements, seventy-one feet; and thence to the top of the spire, ninety nine feet in height. This is attached to the tower, by flying buttresses at the angles. The western front of the tower displays some curious architectural features. At the base is a pointed arched doorway, with two openings beneath flattened arches. The mouldings surrounding them, are charged with sculpture, of figures, foliage, &c. Immediately over these are ten circular compartments, or panels of basso-relievo, representing so many passages from the New Testament.* In the chancel, under an arch on the north side of the altar steps, is a free-stone monument, covered with a marble slab, having a brass inlaid, on which is the portrait of a man, bearing on its breast this inscription, "fili dei miserere mei." Above, and on the sides, were placed eighteen figures of Apostles and Saints, most of

 which

* A small engraved representation of these, with views of the door-way, tower, and a cross in the church-yard, are published in "the Antiquarian and Topographical Cabinet."

which have been sacrilegiously removed. Round the frieze of the arch, "Suscipiat me Christus, qui vocavit me.—In sinu Abrahe angeli deducant me." On the marble, beneath the portrait, "Hic jacet *Laurentius de Sto Mauro*, quondam rector istius Ecce cujus anime propicietur Deus." Upon a marble in the north part of the chancel is this inscription, to the memory of the parents of Archbishop Chichele. "Hic jacet *Thomas Chichele*, qui obiit XXV° die mensis Februarii anno dni millmo CCCC°, et Agnes uxor ejus, quorum animabus propitietur deus. Amen."

On a stone in the same chancel are engraved figures in brass, of a man, habited as a monk, and a woman in the dress of a nun, included in a niche supported by pillars; representative, as supposed, of *William Chichele*, brother of the archbishop, and Beatrix his wife. On various stones have been emblems and inscriptions, but most of the brasses are removed.

A COLLEGE was founded here, in the year 1422, by Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury, for eight secular canons, one of whom was to be master, four clerks, one to act as grammar-master, another as music-master, and six choristers; for the support of which, he endowed it with various estates. By the survey made of the possessions in 1535, it was found to have an annual revenue of 204*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* and after different deductions, one of which was a *penny a day* to thirteen poor persons to pray for the soul of the founder, a clear income remained of 156*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* per annum. This, with the house, in the thirty-fifth year of King Henry the Eighth's reign, were surrendered to the crown. The building, which appears to have been of a quadrangular form, but now in a ruinous state, was some years since converted into an inn; and the chapel desecrated to the purposes of a kitchen. A portion of the revenues form the endowment of the present FREE-SCHOOL, the house for which is a handsome stone building, situated at the north-west end of the church, having an embattled parapet.

*The alms*, or *bead house*, on the south side of the church, was also founded and endowed by Archbishop Chichele, for twelve

poor men and one woman, with a daily allowance to each person of one penny. The oldest pensioner is styled the *prior*.

The town of Higham, is a borough by prescriptive right, and was incorporated in the reign of Philip and Mary. The Corporation comprises a Mayor, seven Aldermen, thirteen capital Burgesses, and other inferior officers. The Aldermen are chosen out of the Burgesses, and the Mayor elected annually from the body of Aldermen. The Mayor has a right of holding a Court every three weeks, for the determining actions for debt, in any sum under forty pounds; and annually he holds a Court-leet, previous to the expiration of his office. By virtue of the same charter, the place sends one member to parliament, and the elective franchise is vested in all the inhabitants, exclusive of such as receive alms.

The town is small, consisting of two streets, a lane, and what is here called the market-*stead*, in which stands a *cross*, bearing a cube at top, and on the four sides are carved in stone, different figures, emblematic of the crucifixion. The elevated situation of the town, renders it clean and dry, and from the salubrity of the air, it is generally considered, a pleasant place for residence. By the returns under the population act, the number of houses is 125, and inhabitants 726. From its formerly having had *three* weekly markets, it was very probably then much more populous. Those kept on Mondays and Thursdays, have long been disused, and the one held on Saturdays, is much decayed, though here are still *seven* well accustomed fairs.

Henry Chichele, justly the proud boast of this place, was born here, educated at Winchester School, and made by William de Wykeham, one among the first fellows of his newly-founded college, at Oxford. After having been appointed to several preferments in the church, in 1409, he was sent by King Henry the Fourth, to the Council of Pisa, and was by the Pope consecrated Bishop of St. David's, at Vienna; and afterwards advanced to the See of Canterbury, by King Henry the Fifth. From motives of policy, he refused to accept of a Cardinal's cap. Though zealous for the spiritual power of the Romish See, and a violent

violent persecutor of Lollardism; yet no man in his situation, was ever a stronger asserter of the English liberties, or a more strenuous opposer of papal usurpations and encroachments, than Chichely. He made, and clearly defined the difference between *State*-popery and *Church*-popery, oppugning the one, and espousing the other. When the Parliament, which met at Leicester, in the time of Henry the Fifth, formed a plan for the dissolution of the Abbies, he artfully, by his policy, rendered it abortive: satisfying the royal wishes by a grant of a large benevolence from the clergy, and promises of more. Of his love of learning, and his liberal encouragement for its diffusion, the noble institutions he founded and endowed, are strong and lasting monuments. St. Bernard's Hospital, afterwards converted by the additional bounty of Mr. White, into a college by the name of St. John's, in Oxford, was erected and supported at his expence. And if no other remained, All-soul's College, in the same university, founded by him, in 1438, would be amply sufficient of itself to immortalize his memory. He died in the year 1443.*

Chester, in the parish of Irchester, receives its appellation from a Roman fortification, or camp to which the Saxons always gave the name of cestre. This, now called the *burrow*, was of a parallelogramatic form, containing about eighteen acres, inclosed with a wall nine feet thick, built in the herring back fashion, and faced with flat stones. The situation is declivous: the longest diameter runs parallel with the course of the river, north and south. Various remains have been found, which indicate a Roman origin, and even Mr. Morton,† whose bias on all occasions, appears in favour of *Scandinavian* antiquities, is constrained to acknowledge, "although it was walled about with

* See his life in Latin, by Dr. Arthur Duck, 8vo. "made English," and published in 8vo. 1699. A portrait of him, from painted glass, is published in "Lambath Palace, illustrated," &c. 4to. 1806. See also Vol. VIII. p. 810 of this Work.

† Nat. Hist. of Northampton, p. 517.

with stone, that this might have been a summer camp of the Romans; the Hybernaculum or winter station, having been in the adjoining village of Irchester." The vestiges in this case were too many, and the indications too strong for subterfuge, in favour of any hypothesis. The ruins have afforded ample proof to what people and period they ought to be assigned; and in such cases it requires no reasoning to ascertain a palpable fact. Various coins have been discovered, of the different mints of Faustina, Adrianus, Gratianus, Antoninus, Constantinus, &c. and some years ago, in an orchard belonging to the manor-house, were found a quantity of small brass coins, inclosed in an urn, which had a ring and chain appended to it; and among the ruins on the south side, two quadrangular pillars, about four feet in height, and two feet square, were discovered. These, though apparently uninscribed stones, were evidently sepulchral altars. Fragments of a tessellated pavement, and Roman bricks, have been turned up by the plough; all which demonstrate that this place was a encampment of the Romans, and from the immense thickness of the walls, and the river running immediately under them, it seems to have been a position of considerable importance.

Raunds is a village, pleasingly seated on an eminence, which abounds with springs. One of these is of a petrifying quality. Here were formerly large quarries of rag stone, but these are either exhausted, or the working discontinued for want of proper demands. The church, on a lofty spot of ground, is a curious ancient building, and displays some interesting architectural and ornamental details. It consists of a large body, with two ailes, a spacious chancel, and at the eastern end of the south aile is a chauntry, called *St. Peter's Chapel.* At the western end is a lofty steeple; some of the windows in which are of the lancet shape, with clustered columns. The western elevation is divided into four tiers, and decorated with several windows, arcades, &c. and "a singular projection in the form of a W." Near the south side of the church is the base of a stone Cross,

one of the steps to which is ornamented with quaterfoil panels, and the shaft contains some remains of sculpture. At Raunds was born *John Grimbald*, who built Trinity College Library, and part of Clare Hall in Cambridge.

At Mill Cotton, a hamlet in the parish of Ringstead, are the remains of a square *entrenchment*, consisting of lofty earthen ramparts, &c. These are nearly entire on the northern and western sides. In ploughing, various Roman coins have been turned up; and near the foss was found an urn, containing ashes: and at Mallow Cotton, not far distant, ruins of numerous buildings have been discovered. In Sir Richard Hoare's translation of Giraldus Cambrensis, is a map of the forts erected by Ostorius, on the river Nen, and this at Cotton Mill, is erroneously placed on the northern side of the Nen river, whereas it is on the south.

Higham Park, in the parish of Rushden, anciently belonged to the Dukes of Lancaster, according to Norden. The mansion erected by one of them, was standing in his time, and then inhabited by Mr. Pemberton, who was probably one of the gentleman ushers to Queen Elizabeth. This family had considerable possessions, and were seated here for several generations. The present demesne appears to have been originally imparked in the time of Henry the Second, while the manor belonged to the crown. It is mentioned in a proclamation, issued in the 22d year of King James the First's reign, for the apprehension of persons who had committed outrages in the royal park at Higham Ferrers, by killing and stealing of the deer, and assaulting and beating the keepers. It was afterwards granted to the family of Long, and is now disparked.

In the parish of Stanwick, was formerly a remarkable spring, called *Fins-well*, which after running above ground for the distance of twelve perches, suddenly disappeared. Fragments of a Roman *tessellated pavement* were some years since discovered at

at the extremity of a field, called Meadow Furlong. The *tower* of the parish church, is of an octangular form, with a lofty spire, and has a series of semicircular windows to the belfry story.

At this place was born Dr. JOHN DOLBEN, Archbishop of York, whose father had the rectory. During the civil war, he took up arms in the royal cause, was first an ensign, and afterwards promoted to a majority. At the restoration, his services were rewarded successively, with a Canonry, Archdeaconry, Deanery, Bishopric, and at length he had conferred on him the archiepiscopal mitre of York. He died April 16, 1686, and was interred in his own cathedral.

Stanwick is also the birth-place of RICHARD CUMBERLAND, Esq. who has recently published "Memoirs of Himself," two vols. 8vo, with portraits.

## HUXLOE HUNDRED

Is called in the Norman survey, *Hoches-laa,* and a part of it distinguished by the name of Nevesland; which in the time of Henry the Second, was also subdivided into Suthnaveslunt, and Northnaveslunt. But these distinctions ceased in the reign of Edward the First, and the whole, as at present, was comprehended under the name of Huckeslowe, or Huxloe. It contains the parishes of *Addington* Great, *Addington* Little, *Aldwinkle,* All Saints; *Aldwinkle,* St. Peter's; *Barnwell* All Saints; *Barton Seagrave, Barton Lattimer, Cranford,* St. Andrew: *Cranford* St. John; *Denford, Finedon,* or *Thingdon, Grafton Underwood, Irthingborough, Islipe, Kettering, Lilford* cum Wigsthorpe, *Lowick, Slipton, Sudborough, Twywell, Warkton,* and *Woodford.*

ALDWINKLE is celebrated for having been the native place of that original and admirable poet, JOHN DRYDEN, who was born in the rectory house here. He was educated at Westminster School, whence he was elected to Trinity College, Cambridge, and

and after taking the degree of master, removed to London. Soon after the fire in that great city, he engaged with the proprietors of the king's theatre, to furnish a certain number of new plays annually, for a fixed stipend. He succeeded Sir William Davenant as poet laureat, and obtained the situation of Historiographer to the king. At the revolution he lost his preferments, and subsequently subsisted upon the profits of his pen. He died in 1700, aad was interred in Westminster Abbey. It would be difficult perhaps to decide, whether the extent and variation of his pegasean flights were exceeded, or not, by the vast versatility of his political and religious principles. He wrote a sympathizing elegy on the death of Cromwell, and a complimentary poem to King Charles the Second, at his restoration. On the accession of James the Second, he turned Roman Catholic, and endeavoured to defend his novel faith in a poem, entitled "The Hind and Panther." His works are too numerous to be particularised or critically discriminated here. In his dramatic writings, his chief excellence appears in tragedy; but the haste and negligence discoverable in many of his plays, exposed him to the satire of several rival wits, whose envy indisposed them to shew him the smallest degree of lenity. His poetry is more correct, the sentiments strong, the language in general energetic, and his versification harmonious. Though he certainly believed in judicial astrology, which has been remarked as a proof of mental weakness; yet it is not true that he by this science predicted the fate of his elder son.*

Thomas Fuller, a celebrated ecclesiastic and historian, was born at Aldwinkle St. Peter's, of which parish his father was rector. He was educated at Cambridge, took orders, and afterwards became lecturer of the Savoy in London. During the Civil Wars he experienced many vicissitudes in life, but reinstated at the restoration in the situations from which he had been

*A critical account of this author, with an uniform edition of his works, have recently been ushered into the world, by Walter Scott, Esq.

been cruelly ousted, he sat down and wrote "The Church History of Britain," which was published in folio, 1655. He also wrote another voluminous work, intitled "The Worthies of England,"* which was published by his son, in 1661. He was also author of "Abel Redivivas;" "The History of the Holy War;" &c. &c. &c. Of these works, Granger remarks that the "Church History" is the most erroneous; the "Pisgah Sight" the most exact; and his "History of the Worthies" the most estimable. He was unhappy in having a vein of wit, as he has taken uncommon pains to write up to the bad taste of his age, which was much fonder of conceit than sentiment. Fuller died August 15, 1661, aged 54.

In Barton Seagrave Church is a handsome white marble monument, to the memory of John Bridges, Esq. and *Elizabeth* his wife. He was, as the inscription states, a scientific agriculturist, a lover of useful and ornamental planting, and the first, who introduced, into this part of the kingdom, the culture of *Saintfoin*, as a field crop for fodder. He died January 5, 1712, in consequence of grief for the loss of his affectionate wife, who had been suddenly snatched from him the 24th of the preceding month.

Another inscription commemorates John Bridges, Esq. son of the above, and the laborious collector of materials for the history of the county. This village has generally been supposed his native place, from having been long his residence; but his monument records that he was born in the year 1666, at *Binfield*, in the county of Berks. He was bred to the profession of the law, and some time previous to his death, was elected a bencher of Lincoln's Inn. Various lucrative places he enjoyed under government, prevented him paying much practical attention to his profession: for he successively filled the offices of solicitor to the customs, commissioner of the same, and

* This work having become very scarce, a new edition of it, in quarto, is now printing, by the principal booksellers of London.

and cashier of the excise. He was also one of the governors of Bethlehem Hospital, and a Fellow of the Royal Society. He had long formed the design of writing a History of Northamptonshire; but was prevented from putting it into execution, by various avocations. It was not, therefore, till the latter part of his life, that he began his collections, for which he visited almost every parish. "He was a gentleman truly valuable in all respects, of superior parts and learning, a great encourager of ingenious and learned men, and a diligent, exact, and curious searcher out of antiquities; in collecting which, in his *native* county of Northampton, he made so great a progress, that had providence spared his life but some few years longer, Northamptonshire would have had no temptation to have envied Hertfordshire her Chauncey, or Warwickshire her Dugdale."* He died in 1724.

Here was formerly a castle, the residence of the Seagrave family. Sir Nicholas de Seagrave,† who was Marshal of England in the reign of Edward the Second, obtained a licence from that monarch to convert his manor-house at Barton into a castle; no vestiges of which, except, the moat to the west of the church, are now traceable. The church displays some features of very ancient architecture. The parsonage is occupied by the Honorable and Reverend R. B. Stopford.

Barton Seagrave Hall, in this parish, a commodious family mansion, is the residence of *Charles Tibbits, Esq.*

Humfrey Henchman, whom Wood says was born, as he was informed

* Kimber and Johnstone's Baronetage of England, Vol. III. p. 56.

† This Sir Nicholas is noted in history for his valiant conduct, as one of the worthiest knights in the kingdom. Having been charged with high treason by Sir John de Crombwell, he challenged the latter to single combat, who refused to accept it, and went abroad: on which the former left the kingdom, without licence, to pursue him, and vindicate his injured honour. For this offence he was apprehended, tried, and sentenced to suffer death. But by the intercession of the nobility he was pardoned, and re-instated in his confiscated possessions.

informed, in the parish of St. Giles's Cripplegate, in London, was a native of this place: having been baptized here, as appears from the register, December 22, 1592. He was a prebendary of Salisbury, and proved himself a zealous loyalist, in promoting the escape of Charles the Second, after the disastrous battle of Worcester. At the Restoration he was made Bishop of Salisbury; and translated, in 1663, to the see of London, where he died in the year 1675.

Cranford Bridge, in the parish of Cranford, a modern house, surrounded by an extensive lawn and pleasure grounds, is the seat of Sir George Robinson, Bart.

Irthlingburgh, or Irtlingborough. In this parish, John Pyel, a Lord Mayor of London, designed to found a college in the Church of St. Peter, but prematurely dying, his design was left to be executed by Joan his wife. The licence was obtained for the foundation in the forty-ninth year of King Edward the Third's reign, for a college to consist of a dean, five secular canons, and four clerks; but the institution was not completed till the eleventh year of Richard the Second. By the survey taken in 1535, the annual revenues amounted to 70*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* Of this building there is now only a fragment remaining, between the body and tower of the church. The tower, separated from the church by ruins of the collegiate buildings, is square for two stories, where an octangular part rises; and the church consists of a nave, two ailes, a transept, and a lofty, spacious chancel.

At the upper end of each aile is a *chantry chapel,* and in the chancel are stalls, with angels and various figures carved in wood, under the seats. On the south side of the chancel is an old tomb, with a canopy, pillars, &c. and near it another monument, with two recumbent effigies supposed (for the inscription is gone) to represent John Pyel, andhis wife. On the north side of the chancel is a tomb, with an alabaster statue: and adjoining it a more antique one, with a knight in armour and a figure of a

female in a very old dress. In the middle of the village stands a stone *cross*, the shaft of which, raised upon steps, is thirteen feet in height, and is the standard for adjusting and regulating the provincial pole, that the portions or doles, as they are here termed, are measured by, in the adjacent meadows.

## KETTERING,

A POPULOUS town, situated upon a small ascent, was, in the time of the Saxons, called Cytringan and Kateringes. The lordship was granted by King Edwy, in the year 976, to his servant Elfsige. The *Church*, comprising a nave, north and south ailes, and a chancel, has a handsome tower, and spire at the west end. The tower consists of three stories, in each of which are large windows, or window frames, of several compartments: the angles are flanked with double buttresses; under the embattled parapet runs an ornamented fascia, and at each corner is raised a small hexangular embattled turret: the whole surmounted by a handsome hexagonal crocketted spire, with three windows, diminishing in their size upwards, on the alternate sides. At the back of the screen, which divides the north aile from the chancel, are the figures of a man with four sons, and a woman with four daughters.—Over these is an inscription in black letter, "Orate pro aiabus *Willielmi Burgis* et Johanne Alicie et Elizabeth uxorum ejus et animabus omnium benefactorum suorum. Amen." The following quaint prophetic promise is also inscribed here: "who so redis mi name shal have Godys blyssing and our lady; and my wyfis doo sey the same."

Excepting the church, Kettering, has nothing to attract, or interest the antiquary. Near the middle of the town is a spacious area, surrounded by some private houses, and shops of respectable appearance. Here is a sessions house, and a well endowed free-school: also an alms-house for six poor widows; and two dissenting chapels. By the returns made to parliament in 1801, the number of houses appears to be 641, and inhabitants 3011;

3011; of which number 1770 were reported as employed in various trades, and 221 in the labours of agriculture. It has a well supplied weekly market on Saturdays.

Dr John Gill, a dissenting minister, who was many years, during the last century, considered the champion of the anti-pedo-baptists, and the supra-lapsarian tenets of Calvinism, was born here in 1697. He was one of those self-taught sons of genius, who, by overcoming what are too often considered insurmountable obstacles in literature, astonish the world by the variety and extent of their acquisitions. He obtained a considerable knowledge of the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages; and while pastor of a baptist congregation in Southwark, the University of Aberdeen conferred on him the degree of D.D. He published several works, but his principal is, "The Exposition of the Bible," in nine volumes folio.

In the vicinity of this town to the westward, in a road called Staunch Lane, are found what are denominated *kitcats*, a kind of pellucid stones, apparently vitrifications. These, when pulverised, are considered singularly efficacious as a styptic, and are consequently much esteemed. They are frequently discovered near the surface of the ground, but more usually in the argillaceous strata, dug for making brick. In a spot named Stony-lands, between Kettering and Weekly woods, in quarrying for stones were found urns, bones, coins, &c.

In the Church of Lilford are several handsome monuments, erected commemorative of the families of Elmes and Powys, successively lords of this manor. In the north aile is an elegant alabaster monument, the arched entablature of which, is supported by two Ionic columns of black marble. On the right side is the figure of a boy presenting a shield, charged with the arms of Elmes; and on the left a similar figure, holding an escutcheon, impaling the same arms, with those of Hicklins. Beneath a square canopy is the effigy of a man in white marble, clad in armour, resting his head on his right arm, a sword in his left, and at his feet a crest. A statue of a woman, cloth-

ed in the costume of the time, is shewn, reclining her head on her right arm. Under the canopy, an angel is represented hovering over the effigies; and in front of the tomb are the figures of four boys and five girls, in supplicating postures. An inscription informs the reader, "This monument is sacred to the memory of *Thomas Elmes, Esq.* who died July 8, 1632; and Christian his wife, who died April 19, 1635; and four of their sons, and five daughters." In the same aile is a white marble tablet, with a Latin inscription, commemorative of *Sir Thomas Elmes,* who died the 15th of May, A.D. 1690. In the chancel is an elegant monument, constructed of white and grey marble, having on the upper part the arms and crest of *Powys.* On an *altar-tomb* of white marble, is the figure of a man in juridical robes, reclining his head on his right arm, and holding a roll in his left hand. At the head of this figure is a fine statue, strongly expressive of Religion: and another at the feet, equally pourtraying Eloquence. On a tablet of white marble is a long inscription, written by Matthew Prior; stating that this fine specimen of sepulchral sculpture, was erected to commemorate the virtues of *Sir Thomas Powys, Knt.* second son of Thomas Powys of Henley, in the county of Salop, serjeant at law. He had the successive appointments of solicitor and attorney-general, premier serjeant at law, was made one of the judges of the king's bench; and died April 4, 1719, aged 70 years.

Lilford House, the seat of *Lord Lilford,* is a handsome mansion, built by Arthur Elmes, Esq. in the year 1635; but it has been subsequently much enlarged and improved by Sir Thomas Powys, afterwards lord of this manor. The principal front consists of a body, with a handsome vestibule, and square-headed windows; two wings having semi-circular ones: and the roof presents three ornamental gables, with a venetian window in each, connected together by a balustrade: and the chimnies form a fine massy arcade in the centre. Situated on the swell of an elevated lawn, in the midst of well wooded



grounds,

grounds, above a river, over which is thrown an extensive bridge of several arches, the appearance has a striking effect.

In the Church of Lowick, or Luffwick, are several brasses, bearing very old inscriptions; and on a tomb in the south aile is the figure of a man, clad in armour; and round the verge, in Latin, a request to pray for the soul of *Edward Stafford*, Earl of Wilton, who died March 24, A.D. 1499. Under the east window of the north aile, is a female figure, recumbent on a black marble slab, that covers an altar-tomb. This commemorates the *Right Honorable Lady Mary Mordaunt*, Baroness Mordaunt of Turvey, daughter of Henry, Earl of Peterborough; first married to Henry, Duke of Norfolk; and after his decease, to Sir John Germain, Knt. and Bart. She died November 17, A.D. 1705. On the north side of this, on a similar tomb, is the effigy of a man in armour, and near him the figures of three small children. An inscription states, that beneath were deposited the remains of *Sir John Germain, Knt.* and *Bart.* who died December 11, AD. 1718. The church of Lowick is a large handsome building, and appears to have been built in the sixteenth century, when the best style of church architecture was beginning to decline. The pinnacles, windows, doors, and stalls, are all highly charged with ornaments; and the latter, particularly, presents much curious and ludicrous carving.

The manorial mansion in this parish, Drayton House, a noble antiquated structure, was supposed to have been erected about the latter end of Henry the Sixth's reign, by Henry Green, Esq.* who was twice sheriff of this county. On an engraved plate of the house by Buck, in the year 1729, it is stated to have been a castle, which descended to the said Henry Green, Esq. who probably made considerable alterations; but it yet retains much of its castellated features in the embattled

 walls,

* Fuller's Worthies, Northamptonshire.

walls, entrance gateway, and two square towers, one at each end, surmounted by turrets, and lantern cupolas. Here is a considerable collection of pictures, and portraits, by some of the most eminent masters. The present estate, house, &c. were bequeathed, by the will of Lady Betty Germaine, in 1771, to Lord George Sackville, who then took the name of Germaine. This nobleman was particularly distinguished in the battle of Minden, and on many other occasions, during the unpopular, and impolitic contest with America. From this nobleman, Drayton devolved to his son, the present Viscount Sackville. In the year 1736, a piece of a Roman *tessellated pavement*, about 3 feet by 1½, was found near this place.

Finedon, or Thingdon, is a pleasant and respectable village, in which is a large, handsome *church*, consisting of a nave, two ailes, a transept, chancel, large southern porch, and lofty tower, with a spire. Beneath the chancel is a family burying vault. West of the church is Finedon Hall, a large mansion, belonging to Sir William Dolben, Bart; but at present occupied by the Earl of Egmont.

Warkton, about two miles east of Kettering, is noted for the very sumptuous monuments which are preserved in the parish church, or rather in the chancel. This was built with four coved recesses in the walls, to contain as many marble monuments, but at present only three of these are occupied. The first was raised to the memory of *John, Duke of Montague*, who died July 6, 1749, aged 55 years. It is the design of *Roubiliac*, and like that artist's usual compositions, is rather too theatrical in the attitudes and expressions, given to the figures. These consist of two statues, the size of life, and three of children. Besides which, the composition consists of various pieces of ordnance, artillery weapons, cannon balls, flags, trumpets, &c. The statues, representing Charity, with her children, the Duchess who raised the tomb, a medallion of the Duke, and some other parts are all of fine statuary marble, which are opposed

posed by a back ground, pedestal, &c. of grey and yellow marble.

Another monument, by *Roubiliac*, is raised to the memory of MARY, DUCHESS OF MONTAGUE, daughter of John Duke of Marlborough. She died May 14, 1751, aged 61.

The design consists of three figures, intended to represent the three Fates, or Destinies: Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos. Also an urn on a pedestal, with two cupids, entwining it with wreaths of flowers. Here again we perceive the same theatric style of composition, which is very ill adapted to the solemn, grand, and awful occasion.

A third monument, of a most costly and splendid kind, was "designed and executed by *Peter Matthias Vangelder*," of London; and finished in Sept. 1781. It records the memory of "Mary, Duchess of Montague, daughter and heiress of John, Duke of Montague," who died May 1, 1775, aged 63. The coved recess is covered with fine white statuary marble, ornamented with basso-relievi, and various architectural members. In the centre of this is a funeral urn, surrounded by statues of women and children, in the attitudes of lamenting over this benevolent benefactress. An epitaph, in verse, by Henry Lyte, Esq. is couched in the highest style of panegyric. This monument is peculiarly elegant, and calculated to excite very general admiration.

WEEKLY CHURCH, about half a mile north-east of Warkton, in the Hundred of Orlingbury, contains a few *old* monuments to the Montagues, of Boughton. At the east end of the north aile is an altar-tomb, with two stone effigies of *Sir Edward Montague, Knt.* who died Jan. 26, 1601; and Elizabeth his wife, who died May 10, 1618. Another tomb, with a marble statue, is raised to the memory of Edward Montague, who died 1556. Other slabs and flat stones contain inscriptions, some much mutilated, to other persons of the Montague family. Near the south side of the church is an hospital for seven poor men; and at the southern extremity of the village, are traces of a moat

&c. where an old castellated manor-house is supposed to have formerly stood.

In this parish is a spring of petrifying water, from which an incrusted skull has been taken, and is preserved as a curiosity, in Sydney College, Cambridge.

Boughton House, in the parish of Weekly, has long been the seat of the Montague family; of whom the first who obtained any distinguished titles was Ralph, created Viscount Monthermer, and Earl of Montague, by King William the Third, A.D. 1689: Marquis of Monthermer, and Duke of Montague, by Queen Anne, 1705: "he died 1708, and the titles expired, 1749, with his son John, who almost new built the house."* Both titles were revived, 1766, in George, Earl of Cardigan, who married the surviving daughter of the former duke and duchess. This place has been much noted formerly, for its lawns and *gardens:* the latter are said to have comprised "100 acres, and 130 perches" of land. These were ornamented with various water-works, a canal one mile in length, also cascades, fountains, parteres, terraces, &c.† Since the late duke's decease, the house, and gardens, have been much neglected; and though the former contains a large collection of pictures, yet these have suffered materially from the same cause. Some of the paintings have been of the first class: among which are two *Cartoons* by Raffaelle, which are of pre-eminent merit. One is a representation of "*Ezekiel's Vision,*" from the first chapter of the "book of Ezekiel;" and is a grand, sublime, and impressive composition. The other, called "the *Holy Family,*" consists of eight figures, and an angel. Here are two, or three pictures, heads, and full lengths of *Edward the Sixth,* a half length in armour, of *Lord Strafford,* who was beheaded in 1641.

CORBY

* Gough, from Stukeley's Itin. Cur. I. 36.

† A plate of these is given in the Vitruvius Britannicus.

## CORBY HUNDRED,

A WOODED district, bounded on the west by the hundreds of Rothwell and Huxloe, has its north-western, and longest boundary, formed by the river Welland, which divides it from part of Rutlandshire. At the time of the Norman Survey, it comprised two divisions, denominated Stocie and Corbie Hundreds. These are mentioned on record, as having been united under the present name, in the twenty-fourth year of Edward the First. This hundred contains the parishes of *Ashley, Blatherwick, Brampton-by-Dingley, Brigstock, Bulwick, Carlton, Corby, Cottingham, Deene, Deenethorpe, Dingley, Fineshade, Geddington, Gretton, Harringworth, Laxton, Middleton, Newton, Oakley* Great, *Oakley* Little, *Rockingham, Stanion, Sutton Basset, Wakerley, Weekley, Weldon* Great, *Weldon* Little, *Weston-by-Welland,* and *Wilberstone.*

BLATHERWICK HALL, in the parish of BLATHERWICK, the residence of *Henry O'Brien, Esq.* is a fine old mansion, situated in a small park; the entrance gateway to which has a balustrade, decorated with various statues.

In BRIGSTOCK, within the limits of Rockingham Forest, is a a large mansion, which formerly belonged to the Duke of Montague. A singular modification, in copyhold tenure, is constituted by the custom of this manor. If any man dies, seized of copyhold lands or tenements, which come to him by descent in fee, his youngest son is legal heir. But if such lands were purchased by him, then the eldest succeeds to the estate. This tenure involves some other curious circumstances.

In the parish church of DEENE, or DEANE, are several handsome monuments, commemorative of the *Brudenell* family. In the south aile is an *altar-tomb,* with a recumbent figure of a man, in a judge's robes, between two female figures, clad in the costume of the time, with their arms in a supplicating posture. At the bottom is this inscription in black letter, " Of

yowre

yowre charite pray for the soules of Sir ROBERT BRUDENELL, knyght, late chief justice of the kyngys come benche at Westm^r. and Margaret and Dame Phylup hys wyves, which Sir Robert dyed ꝯ XXX daye of Januarie ano dni MCCCCCXXXI. and the seyd dame Phyllyppe dyed the XXIIII day of March anno dni MCCCCCXXXII, and lyes here, on whose soules Jhu have mercy. Amen."

On a marble slab near this, are engraved figures in brass, of a man and his wife, also portraitures of their five sons and six daughters, with an inscription, stating, that this memorial was placed here in 1586, by Thomas Brudenel, Esq. for his pious and beloved parents, Sir *Thomas Brudenel, Knt.* and Elizabeth his wife. Several other monuments are preserved here, commemorative of different branches of this distinguished family.

DEENE-THORPE PARK, on the verge of Rockingham Forest, is the seat of *James Brudenel,* Earl of Cardigan. The park is large, well stocked with deer, and abounds with pleasing, though not very extensive views; but is highly diversified with the softer scenes of swelling lawns, enriched with the contrasting, and variegating effects of wood and water. On one of the eminences, at the extremity of the park, commanding a most charming prospect, is situated the House. The ground gradually rising in front, expands into a spacious lawn, bounded by large woods, which, on the left, are relieved by a fine piece of water, having an island in the centre; and on the right, are the pleasure gardens ornamented, amidst plantations, with temples, and porticos. The house is a low embattled structure, with a turret terminating each wing. The apartments, however, are spacious and lofty; particularly the hall, which is a very magnificent room, with a fine timbered roof, the height reaching to the top of the building. The windows are emblazoned with the arms of Brudenel and Montague; and the walls embellished by numerous family portraits. A small, but neat chapel, was erected by the present earl. In the library is a good collection of foreign books, and many topographical, and other manuscripts;

manuscripts; chiefly relating to this county, collected out of records, preserved in the tower, by the first Lord Brudenel, during the confinement he suffered there, by command of the parliament, for his loyalty and attachment to the cause of Charles the First. In the billiard, drawing, bed-rooms, parlours, and other apartments, are numerous family portraits, some good pictures, and various curious pieces of tapestry.

Dingley Hall, late the residence of *John Peach Hungerford, Esq.* is a handsome mansion, partly erected in the ancient, and partly in the modern style. The entrance to one of the fronts is by a noble portico, the entablature of which, supported by columns of the Ionic order, has on it several inscriptions, and the date 1558.

Fineshed, Fineshade, or, as originally styled, *St. Mary-Castle-Hymel*, Priory, occupied the site of an ancient fortress, called Castle Hymel, which was erected by one of the family of Engaine. It was, however, dismantled so early as the reign of King John. Within the castle moat *Richard Engaine*, or Engayne, founded a monastery for black canons of the Augustine order. From a survey of the possessions belonging to this house, taken in 1535, its annual income appears to have amounted to 72*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* This, with the priory, were granted in exchange for lands in Devonshire, to John Lord Russel; from whom, by purchase, they passed to Sir Robert Kirkham, Knt. A mansion, built upon the site, in which some faint traces of the original structure are visible, in columns, arches, and vaulted roofs, is the present residence of the *Honorable John Monckton.*

Situated in a chase about five miles long, and two broad, on the small river Ise, is the village of Geddington, in the centre of which stands one of those elegant Crosses, erected by Edward the First, to the memory of his affectionate consort, Eleanor. This is the most perfect of the remaining crosses, uncumbered

cumbered with modern additions, like the one near Northampton; and not so much injured by mutilation, as that at Waltham. The base, on which it is raised, consists of a triangular pedestal, of eight steps. The first story is ornamented with a profusion of sculpture, of roses, and various foliage; and is also charged with shields of arms. The second contains three niches, with crocketed pinnacles, in which are female figures: and the upper story is decorated with various tabernacle work, pinnacles, &c.

On what still is known under the name of *Castle-Close*, stood a royal palace, at which, in 1188, was held a Parliament for the purpose of raising money to carry on a crusade to the Holy Land. The Church contains some ancient relics: among these are three stone seats, with a piscina in the south wall. The altar is raised on two steps, which contain inscriptions, in old letters, extending the whole width of the chancel.

In the Church of GRETTON are several monuments to the memory of the *Hatton* family; and in this parish stands KIRBY HALL, belonging to *George Finch Hatton*, Esq. but at present unoccupied. This noble mansion was erected by the celebrated Sir Christopher Hatton,* Lord Chancellor in the time of Queen Elizabeth. The date on the stables is 1590; and on the inner court of the house 1593. It is a large rectangular building, and the porch of the inner court, consists of three orders of columns, one above another. Here was once a fine collection of paintings, statues, &c. Kirby was formerly esteemed one of the best furnished houses of the kingdom. The gardens were adorned with numerous exotic, as well as indigenous plants, and the wilderness in the park, contained nearly every species of English trees. The paintings, furniture, &c. have been sold

* Bridges observes, that it "was built by the Stafford family, as appeareth from their crest, a boar's head out of a ducal coronet, and Humphre Stafford on several parts of it." Hist. of Northamptonshire, Vol. II. p. 314.

sold, the gardens and grounds unaccountably neglected, and the whole is fast going to ruin and decay.

> " Great enemy to it, and all the res
> That in the garden of Adonis springs,
> Is wicked Time ; who with his scythe addrest,
> Does now the flowering herbs and goodly things,
> And all their glory to the ground down flings,
> Beats down both leaves and buds without regard,
> Ne ever pity may relent his malice hard."
>
> SPENSER'S FAIRY QUEEN.

LAXTON HALL, in the parish of Laxton, now rebuilding, is the seat of *George Freke Evans*, Esq. who, among the many alterations and improvements making on his estates at this place, has erected several new and comfortable cottages for the humble tenants of the village.

PIPEWELL ABBEY, in the parish of GREAT OAKLEY, was founded by William Butevileyn, for Monks of the Cistercian Order, and was very amply endowed, as appears from a survey made in 1535, when its annual revenues amounted to 347*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* Near the woods of East and West Grange foundations of old buildings point out the site of the monastery; but no other vestiges now remain.

## ROCKINGHAM,

AN inconsiderable town, consisting of one street, of 49 houses, and 213 inhabitants, is situated in the midst of Rockingham-Forest, and is said to have originated from a castle erected here by William the Conqueror, for the defence of the extensive iron works, carried on in the adjacent woodlands. This fortress occupies the top of a hill, on the declivity of which the town is built. This was an occasional residence of our early kings. In the accounts of the royal household, during the reign of Henry the Third, the sheriff is stated to have had his expences allowed, for the removal of wine on that monarch's account, from the port of Southampton to Rockingham.

More

More than twenty dispatches, in the eighth year of Edward the Third, bear date at this place, which is also celebrated for the council of nobility, bishops, and clergy, who sat here in 1094, for the purpose of terminating the dispute between William Rufus and Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, respecting the right of investiture and obedience to the See of Rome. On which memorable occasion, the following question was proposed for their discussion, " Utrum salva reverentia, et obedientia sedis Apostolicæ possit Archiepiscopus fidem *terrens regi* servare, annon ?" A question lamentably prolific of the most serious evils; and has been more or less connected with the wars which ravaged the continent of Europe for centuries. This castle was strongly fortified with double embattled walls, numerous towers, and other bulwarks; and further secured by a large and strong keep. In the time of Leland, who describes it,* many of the works were standing, but in a very decayed state, and little of the original building now remains, except its grand entrance arched-gateway, flanked by two massy bastion towers. Within the court, is a spacious fine old house belonging to Lord Sondes.

The *Church* had its tower and part of the body destroyed by Oliver Cromwell, during the siege of the castle, which was garrisoned for the king by the proprietor, Sir Lewis Watson, afterwards created Lord Rockingham. In the chancel, recumbent on an *altar-tomb*, are the figures of a man clad in armour, and a female. In different marble compartments, are figures in basso-relievo, of a youth in armour, and by the side of him, a sister and two younger brothers; and in other compartments, five sisters. This monument is sacred to the memory of *Edward Watson*, grandfather to Lewis, first Lord Rockingham; and *Dorothy*, his wife, daughter of Sir Edward Montagu, Lord Chief Justice of the King's-bench. Another monument commemorates *Ann*, wife of Edward, baron of *Rockingham*, and eldest

* Itinerary, Vol. 1, fol. 14.

eldest daughter of Thomas, earl of Strafford; she died Jan. 2d A. D. 1695. Under a canopy, supported by columns, on a low pedestal, stands an elegant female figure, clad with loose drapery, and pointing to a scroll, lying at her feet. This monument commemorates the Hon. *Margaret Watson*, and her affectionate sister, *Arabella, Lady Oxenden*. A large sumptuous monument of variegated marbles, executed by P. *Scheemakers*, and *L. Delvaux;* is commemorative of *Lewis, Earl* of *Rockingham*, and Catharine, his Countess, second daughter of Sir George Sondes. He is represented by a figure in a Roman habit, with a helmet in his hand; and she in the dress of the times. A long inscription recounts the genealogies of both families. A large mural monument records the virtues of *Grace Pelham, Lady Sondes*, fourth daughter of the Right Hon. Henry Pelham, wife of Lewis, Lord Sondes, who died July 1, 1777. On each side is another monument, corresponding in design; one erected for *Lewis Watson, Lord Sondes*, who died March 30, 1795; and the other for *Lewis Thomas, Lord Sondes*, who died June 21, 1806.

Great Weldon, or as commonly called *Weldon in the Woods*, a small town, containing, by the returns made to Parliament, 72 houses, and 364 inhabitants; had formerly a weekly market, which is now discontinued. The market house, over which are the sessions chambers, supported by columns of the Tuscan order, was built by Lord Viscount Hatton. This parish is famous for its *quarries* of rag-stone, a species of marble, which takes a high polish, and is in great esteem for chimney pieces, slabs, &c. and a tradition here states, that St. Paul's cathedral, which was destroyed in the fire of London, was constructed of Weldon stone. In the vicinity of this place, was discovered in the year 1738, some fragments of Roman *tessellated pavements*, one of which was 96 feet long, and 10 broad. Connected with this, were the floors of seven rooms; the center one being the largest, and was terminated at one end with five sides of an octangular projection. Among the ruins were found several Roman *coins* of the lower empire.

NAVISFORD

## NAVISFORD HUNDRED

Is distinguished in the records of territorial property, as having been, during the Saxon period, included in the eight hundreds, of which the abbey of Peterborough had been, according to legal phraseology, immemorially seized, and which previous to the inquisition then made, was confirmed by the charter of King Edgar. On the dissolution of that monastery, Henry the Eighth, settled this district and the hundreds of Huxloe and Polebrooke, as a jointure for life, on Queen Catharine. The Hundred contains the parishes of *Clapton*, *Pilton*, *Stoke Doyle*, *Thorpe Achurch*, including the hamlet of Wigsthorpe, *Thrapston*, *Titchmarsh*, and *Wadenhoe*.

In the parish church of Clapton, are several monuments to the memory of the Dudley family. In this parish are the ruins of Liveden House, which was built after a plan, as previously observed, of *Sir Thomas Tresham*. One of the wings is nearly entire, and serves to give a tolerable idea of the design, and execution of the whole. The present remains, consisting of the exterior wall, are decorated with religious emblems, inscriptions, and various architectural devises, in the true style of the Elizabethan age.

Major Butler, with a detachment of the parliamentarian forces, from an antipathy to the architect, as was reported, wished to demolish the house, but unable to accomplish the design, he caused the timbers to be sawn out, and removed to the town of Oundle, for the erection of a house which is still standing there.

Thrapston, a small town on the southern bank of the Nen, contains 121 houses, and 675 inhabitants, according to returns made to Parliament. The houses in general, are well built, and a handsome bridge, of several arches, crosses the Nen, by which river, a considerable trade is carried on, to Lynn, Northampton, and

and to various other towns oni ts course. The river was rendered navigable to this place in the year 1737. "At the very end of Thrapeston-bridge stand ruins of a very large *hermitage*, and principally well builded, but of late discoverid and suppressid."*

## POLEBROOK HUNDRED.

Bounded on the east by part of the county of Huntingdon, and anciently written Pochebroc, and Pokebroc, was one of the eight hundreds possessed by the abbey of Medenhamsted. It now contains the parishes of *Barnwell*, St. Andrew, *Benefield*, *Hemington*, *Luddington*, *Oundle*, including the hamlet of Ashton, *Polebrooke*, including the hamlet of Armston, *Warmington*, and *Winwick*.

Barnwell, St. Andrew, derives its name from a singular custom. Near the village are seven wells, in which during the ages of superstition, it was usual to dip weakly infants, called *berns*. From whatever cause this custom was originally adopted, in the course of time some presiding angel was supposed to communicate hidden virtues to the water, and mystical and puerile rites were performed at these springs, denominated *fontes puerorum*. A dark devotion was then paid to wells, which occasioned a continual resort of persons, productive of great disorder; so that such pilgrimages were strictly prohibited by the clergy. An inhibition of this kind appears among other injunctions of Oliver Sutton, Bishop of Lincoln, about the year 1290. At this place, in the reign of Henry the First, A. D. 1132 a *Castle* was erected by Reginald le Moine, which Leland de-

 scribes

* Leland's Itinerary, Vol. I. p. 3.

scribes under the title of "Berengarius Moynes Castel."* At various periods it received alterations and additions, became a noble baronial residence of the Montacute, and then of the Montague families. Long in an uninhabitable state, it now forms a fine and singularly curious ruin. The remains at present are four round massy bastion towers, one standing at each angle of a quadrangular court, which was inclosed by walls three feet thick. Three of these connecting curtains are entire; but that on the western side is in a dilapidated state. On the south-east, the grand *gateway* is still subsisting, flanked by similar circular bastion towers. As the age of this fortress has been accurately ascertained, it may be considered a rare specimen of the castellated form of building immediately subsequent to the conquest.

The parish of Benefield exhibits one of those geological phenomena, which have puzzled philosophers to ascertain the efficient cause; and constituted the subject of various conjecture by the supporters of different systems, respecting the true theory of the earth. About a furlong westward of the village, are nine of those cavities, here, and in the north of England, called *swallows*; but in the south and west, *swallet-holes*;† through which the land-flood waters flow, and disappear. These found in various parts of the island, and almost in every described part of the globe, are supposed by some writers to be a kind

* Linerary, Vol. I. fol. 8. This is inaccurate. Berengarius le Moine, or Morgne, in the fourth year of Edward the First, sold this castle with the manor of Barnwell, to the abbey of Ramsey, in the county of Huntingdon, which on the dissolution of the House in the reign of Henry the Eighth, was granted by that monarch to his consort Queen Catherine, as part of her jointure; and in the eleventh year of James the First, it was purchased by Sir Edward Mountague, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, in whose family it still remains. See Bridges' Hist. of Northamptonshire, Vol. II p. 592.

† See more on this subject in "Kircheri Mundus Subterraneus," Calcott's Treatise on the Deluge; and Gentleman's Magazine for August 1747, and March 1761.

kind of inland gulphs, that swallowed up the waters of the deluge; and by means of which that immense liquid body returned to the centre of the earth; and where it has ever since formed a grand subterraneous abyss. It is not the least singular circumstance attending these swallows, that they are generally found upon the tops of mountains, or, as in the present case, upon very *high* land. These, like most which have been discovered, are nearly circular holes of various diameters, some having a perpendicular, and others an oblique descent, opening beneath the apertures into large spaces, that contain several smaller caves or conduits, through which the waters are evidently conveyed to some distant reservoir.

Farming Woods Hall, in the parish of *Brigstock*, is the seat and property of the Earl of Upper Ossory, to whom this Volume is inscribed. The mansion, standing on a pleasant lawn, is surrounded by fine masses of old woods; the demesne being a portion of Rockingham Forest. Part of the house has been the old Forest Lodge, to which the present noble proprietor has made some additions to render it an occasional residence for himself and family.

## OUNDLE

Is a neat market town, situated upon a sloping ground, on the north side of the river Nen, which, here making a horse-shoe bend in its course, almost surrounds the place. Camden supposes it was from its situation called *Avondale*, the Nen having originally been denominated Avon, and of which the present name is only a corruption. The town, however, occurs in Domesday book, under the name of *Undele*.

The Church consists of a nave, north and south ailes, transept, and chancel, with a square tower. The latter displays five stories, with an octagonal turret, terminating each angle, and is crowned by an hexagonal crocketted spire. The tower measures thirty-five yards, and thence to the top of the spire thirty-two.

*An Alm's-house* was founded here by Sir William Laxton, a native of this place, grocer in London, and lord mayor in 1544, who died in 1556.

*The Free Grammar School,* near the church, was also erected in pursuance of the will of the same beneficent person, who bequeathed estates for the endowment of both establishments, which he placed under the superintendence of the Grocer's Company in London

Over the door of the School-house, is this inscription:

"Undellæ natus, Londini parta labore
Laxtonus possuit, senibus puerisq ; levamen."

Thus englished by Fuller, a better historian than poet;

At Oundle born what he did get,
In London with great pain,
Luxton to old and young hath set
A comfort to remain."

A *Charity School* was built here, and the foundation endowed in the year 1620, by Nicholas Latham, who was upwards of fifty years the rector of Barnwell St. Andrew's. He also founded a *Guild,* or hospital, for the reception of sixteen aged women, who have a weekly allowance for their support.

Two *bridges* over the Nen, form a communication with the roads to Thrapston and Yaxley. The latter called North Bridge, is generally admired, as a handsome object; not only from the number of arches of which it consists, but also for an extensive causeway formed on an arcade, which secures a passage to and from the place ,during the time of flood. But the returns under the population act, the number of houses was 376, and inhabitants 1950.

Among the characters of note born at this place, may be noticed William Hacket, a religious enthusiast, who having run a wild career of infatuated eccentricity, and boldly opposed the established orders in church and state; was arrested, tried, condemned, and executed on a gibbet, in Cheapside, in 1591.

Peter

PETER HAUSTED was also a native of this place. Though a clergyman, he took up arms during the civil wars in the time of Charles the First; and after being in several engagements, fell a sacrifice to his loyalty in defending Banbury Castle, while besieged by the rebels in the year 1643. Among other literary pieces, he published the "Rival Friends," a comedy acted in 1631; "Senile Odium," a comedy in Latin, recited before the university of Cambridge; also a humorous translation of Therius's "Hymnus Tabaci',"* published in London, 1651.

Dr. JOHN NEWTON, a celebrated divine and mathematician, was also born here in the year 1622. Appointed to the living of Ross, in Herefordshire, he spent the greater part of his time at that place, where he died in 1678. He published various mathematical and astronomical works; among which the principal are "Trigonometria Britannica," in folio; "Astronomia Britannica," quarto; "Geometrical Trigonometry," &c. &c.

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## WILLYBROOK HUNDRED

TAKES its name from a stream that rises in Deane Park, and has the river Welland for its north-western boundary, which divides it from the county of Rutland; as the river Nen does from Huntingdonshire, on the southern side. It includes the parishes of *Apethorpe, Cliff-Regis, Collyweston, Cotterstock, Duddington, Easton, Fotheringhay, Glapthorne, Lutton, Nassington, Southwick, Tansor, Warington, Woodnewton,* and *Yarwell.*

The Church of APETHORPE has several windows enriched with stained glass. On each side of the chancel are six stalls, like those in many cathedral churches. Near the communion



* Bridges' Hist. of Northamptonshire, Vol II. p. 411.

table, a mural alabaster monument records the memory of *Sir John Leigh*, Knt. auditor of accounts to King James the First. Another alabaster monument commemorates *Rowland Woodward, Esq.* who appears to have died in defence of the parliamentarian cause, in the time of Charles the First. In the north aile, recumbent on an *altar-tomb* of marble, are the figures of *Sir Anthony Mildmay Knt.* and that of Lady *Grace* his wife; he clad in armour, she dressed in the costume of the times, and both placed in supplicating postures. This sepulchre is decorated with a magnificent and sumptuous monument, the lofty canopy of which is supported on one side by two statues, representative of Justice, and of Wisdom. On the other side is Charity in the act of pouring wine out of a flagon into a chalice; and Devotion resting her right hand upon a pillar. At the upper part of the east end, a virgin in folding robes, having a cross in her right hand, and a tablet in her left. At the west end is Hope raising her eyes towards heaven, her right hand placed on the breast, and her left arm reclining on an anchor. In the centre, over all, is a female figure with an infant. The whole of this gorgeous monument is well conceived, and beautifully executed; and tends to show, that although generally the art of sculpture, at the period when this was erected, had not made much progress; yet individuals in this country had attained to a most respectable degree of excellence. Sir Anthony, who died September 11, 1617, had been chancellor of the exchequer, and privy counsellor, and ambassador from Queen Elizabeth. And Lady Grace, who died July 27, 1620, was his affectionate wife for fifty years.

Apthorpe, the seat of the *Earl of Westmoreland*, is an handsome edifice of free-stone, consisting of a quadrangle, formed by a body and two wings, and the eastern side finished with an open cloister. On the south side, a statue of King James the First, commemorates a visit paid to this place by that monarch, in his journey from Scotland, in the year 1603; who is said to have contributed the timber towards the completion of the building. And here it was the king first noticed Villiers, after-

wards created Duke of Buckingham. The various apartments are ornamented with numerous paintings; among which may be noticed, on the staircase, a full-length picture of James, created Duke of Richmond, in 1641; of Mary, Countess of Westmoreland, daughter and sole heiress of Sir Anthony Mildmay; of the said Sir Anthony, and Lady Grace his wife; of Francis, first Earl of Westmoreland, in 1625; and two full-length portraits of Philip and Mary, which Bridges supposed to have been painted by Holbein.*

## CLIFF-REGIS, OR KING'S CLIFF,

So denominated traditionally from King John having had a hunting seat here, but more probably from the manor belonging to the crown, is a small town, whose market, formerly held on Tuesdays, has long been discontinued. It contains 201 houses, and 876 inhabitants. At this place was born, in 1686, THE REV. WILLIAM LAW, a celebrated polemical and non-juring divine, who refusng preferments, on account of the required oaths, lived in retirement; where occasionally he composed books on devotion, and at times took up his pen in religious controversy. His successful vindication of the received doctrine of the eucharist against the heterodox notions of Bishop Hoadly, is well known; and the name of Law will go down with eclat, connected as it is with the celebrated *Bangorian* controversy, to the latest posterity. He early admired the works of Jacob Behmen, and the serious call to a devout and holy life; Treatise on Christian Perfection, &c. are, in some degree, tinctured with the ascetic opinions of that noted *mystic*. He died in 1761.†



* Bridges' History of Northamptonshire, Vol. II. p. 424. But this must be erroneous. Holbein died of the plague in London, in 1554; and Queen Mary only ascended the throne the preceding year. It is more probable the artist was *Sir Antonio More*, who painted several portaits of Mary and Philip, and followed the latter into Spain.

† See an Account of his Life, prefixed to his works.

Cotterstock. In this parish, almost in a line east from *Weldon,* in the adjacent hundred, where it has been previously noticed, that Roman antiquities have been found, was discovered a *tessellated pavement,** very little defaced, about twenty feet square, having a border seven feet broad. The work in the centre of about ten feet square, consisted of reticulated, and other patterns; in the midst of which were various ornaments. In the strata of loose earth west of this, were dug up large nails, oyster shells, and fragments of sepulchral urns, with coins, &c. together with foundation stones, and a large block of freestone converted into a watering trough. In the year 1798, another pavement was discovered in the same field: also several fragments of inferior workmanship, but much defaced.

Cotterstock Hall, the seat of *Lady Booth,* was built by Mr. Norton, a friend of Dryden's; and here that poet composed his fables, and spent the two last summers of his life.

Fotheringhay, connected with the lives and fates of princes, must ever be interesting to the topographer and traveller; as it will be, to the latest period, conspicuous on the page of history. Here was formerly a *Castle,* probably first erected by Simon St. Liz second Earl of Northampton, in the time of the Conqueror. In the reign of Edward the Third, it was rebuilt by Edmund Langley, Duke of York, who made the keep in the shape of a *fetter-lock,* the device, or emblem, with the occasional addition of a falcon in the centre, of the York family. The same figure in stained glass, was also emblazoned in most of the castle windows. By marriage, this fortress became the property of the Scottish kings; and in the fourteenth year of King John's reign, David of Scotland was summoned to surrender the castle to the crown of England; but refusing to comply, the sheriff was directed, by royal mandate, to raise the *posse-comitatus* to force

* This was engraved by Vertue, for the Society of Antiquaries.

force him to submission. In the fifth year of Henry the Third's reign, William de Fortibus, Earl of Albemarle and Holderness, took this fortress by surprise, while it was in the possession of Ranulph, Earl of Chester; and having placed a garrison in it, ravaged the adjacent country. Edward the Fourth, after having quelled the insurrection of the northern men, in the year 1496, on his return met his queen here, who had waited his arrival. And in this fortress he had previously, in the twenty-second year of his reign, taken up his residence; when Alexander, King of Scotland, had an audience, and promised to do fealty and homage to the King of England.

The honour of Fotheringhay was settled, in dower, on Queen Catharine, by Henry the Eighth; and in the time of Elizabeth, its custody was confided to Sir William Fitzwilliams. In this Queen's reign, the castle was rendered a scene of woe, and its name will ever be associated with sentiments of horror and melancholy. Here Mary Stewart, Queen of Scots, after suffering imprisonment, was tried, condemned, and executed, in the year 1580. Respecting the justice, or injustice of this cruel, and apparently unjust act, various opinions still prevail, and much has been written: but this is not a proper place to enter into the controversy. Camden, who was a cotemporary, and had ample means of arriving at truth, endeavours to avoid entering into any discussion upon the point; saying, "let it be ever forgotten, if possible; but if not, let it be ever wrapped up in silence."* Fotheringhay, however, notwithstanding the reserve of some, and the misrepresentation of other writers, notwithstanding the castle has been demolished, and the walls of her prison down, and the hall of judgment no more; will, to the latest posterity, transmit the deplorable event

* Britannia. For this studied reserve, there existed obvious and imperious reasons; as Camden held under Elizabeth a place of great trust, and emolument: so that, whatever might have been his real opinion, concealment was an act of prudence

event, and record in its name and site the nefarious transaction.

"And lo! where time with brightened face serene
Points to yon fair, but glorious opening sky;
See, Truth walk forth, majestic, aweful queen!
And *Party's* blackening mist before her flies.

Falsehood, unmasked, withdraws her ugly train,
And Mary's virtues all illustrious shine—
Yes, thou hast friends! the godlike and humane
Of latest ages, injured queen, are thine.

But come ye nymphs, ye woodland spirits come,
And with funeral flowers your tresses braid;
While in this hallowed grove we raise the tomb,
And consecrate the song to Mary's shade.

Hither ye gentle guardians of the fair,
By Virtue's tears, by weeping beauty come;
Unbind the festive robes, unbind the hair,
And wave the cypress bough at *Mary's tomb*."*

MICKLE.

The castle, from a manuscript account, and the description given of it by Leland, must have been a noble structure, containing numerous apartments, secured by strongly fortified walls, with double ditches; the mill-brook serving for part of the inner, and the river Nen for the outer moat. But on the accession of James to the throne of England, an order was issued for its demolition, and nothing now remains save the site, marked by the moats, with the agger on which the keep was erected; and the latter has, within a few years, been nearly levelled.

At

* Contrary to the assertion of Pope Urban the Eighth, the body of this princess was interred in the cathedral church of Peterborough, with the accustomed regal honor, and usual ceremonies, attended by many of the nobility as mourners, the master of the wardrobe, Clarencieux, king at arms, and a train of her majesty's servants. Mag. Brit. Vol. III. p. 474. Her corps was afterwards removed to, and interred in Henry the Seventh's Chapel at Westminster.

At a very remote period a *nunnery* was founded in this village, probably by Simon St. Liz. On the site of this, Edmund Langley intended to erect a college for seculars; but having been prevented by death, the design was carried into execution by his son Edward, Duke of York, who began it in the year 1412. The society consisted of a master, twelve chaplains, eight clerks, thirteen choristers, and was incorporated and confirmed under the title of "the Master and College of the Blessed Virgin, and All Saints in Fodringhey," which the founder and future benefactors amply endowed. At the Dissolution the annual revenues, according to Speed, amounted to 489*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* After the suppression, this college was given, in the reign of Edward the Sixth, to the Duke of Northumberland; and was soon taken down. Some remains of the walls are yet visible towards the river, and part of the cloisters and arches of the choir, adjoining the south side of the conventual *church*. The demolition of that part of the edifice, is deeply to be regretted; for, from the description given of it, in an estimate made of the monastic premises in 1558, it appears to have been a noble building. "In the cloister windows, in number *eighty-eight*, were painted stories much broken, which, being pulled down, would be of no value; and in the library were seven windows; and in the rooms and chambers of the cloister, were eighteen doors of free-stone, rated one with another, at iiis. iv*d.* a door." The part of the structure now remaining, consists of a lofty nave, two ailes, and a square tower at the west end, surmounted by an octagon tower of later erection: and the whole ornamented with elegant pinnacles, and embattled parapets. The windows were formerly embellished with painted glass, some traces of which may yet be seen. The figures of St. George, St Dennis, St. Blasius, and numerous bishops, saints, &c. were intire in 1718, when drawings were taken of them, which have been since engraved for the history of the county. On the wall of the south aile, is the following inscription indicative of the era of the building.

"In festo Martyrii processo Martiniani,
Ecclesiæ prima fuit hujus petra locata;
Ao. Xti C. quater et M. cum, deca quinta,
*Henrici quinti* * tunc imminente secundo."

Near the communion table is a stone monument, bearing this inscription:

"These monuments of EDWARD, DUKE of YORK, and Richard of York, was made in the year of our Lord God 1573. The sayd Edward was slayne in the battle of Agincourt, in the 3d yeare of Henry ye 5th."

On a similar monument is this inscription:

"RICHARD PLANTAGANET, Duke of
York, nephew to Edward, Duke of
Yorke, father to King Edward ye
4th was slaine at Wakefield
In the 37th year of Henry ye
6th 1459. And lieth bnryed
Here with Cicely his wife."

Camden observes, that "these princes had all magnificent monuments, which were thrown down and ruined, together with the upper part, or chancel of the church. But Queen Elizabeth commanded two monuments to be set up in memory of them, in the lower end of the church, now standing; which, nevertheless, (such was *their* narrowness who had the charge of the work,) are looked upon as very mean, for such great princes, descended from kings, and from whom the kings of England are when descended." The Richard above commemorated aspiring to the crown, and attempting to obtain accession on the death of Henry the Sixth, was slain in an engagement, as above stated, by the queen's troops, under the command of the Duke of Somerset.

* Leland, therefore, must be mistaken, in saying "the faire cloistre of the college was made in King Edward the 4 dayes, one Feld beyng master of the college at that tyme." Itin. Vol. I. fol. 5.

set. His body was first interred at Pontefract in Yorkshire, but afterwards conveyed for sepulture to this place. Cicely, his relict, by her will, dated August 27, 1495, directed her body to be buried by the side that of her husband. And to secure the execution of her wishes, she made an interested appeal to the feelings of the canons, and engaged them to assist in the fulfilment of her request. Providing her body is buried at "Fodringhay, she gives to the said colege a square canapie crymson clothe of gold, a chesibull, and twoo tenucles, and three capes of blewe velvett, bordered with thre abes, thre masse bokes, thre grayles, and seven processioners.*"

This village, so distinguished in history, was formerly a considerable town, had a market, weekly on Wednesdays, and three annual fairs. It now consists of one street, containing only 46 houses, and 307 inhabitants.

*A grammar-school* was founded here by Queen Elizabeth, with a yearly salary of twenty pounds to be paid out of the exchequer, for the maintenance of a master who has a house in the churchyard, and privileged with four cows.

Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, afterwards King Richard the Third, was born at this place; in whose person, Fuller observes, "Ajax and Ulysses met; possessing eloquence to talk, and valour to fight." His character, like that of Mary, Queen of Scots, has been sadly and extravagantly misrepresented by various writers; some praising, but most vilifying it.

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## NASEBURGH HUNDRED, AND PETERBOROUGH LIBERTY.

Was ancientiy denominated Nasus-burgi, or the ness of Burgh, from

* Bridges' History of Northamptonshire, Vol. II. p. 452.

from its shape, forming a kind of peninsula, being, except on the west side, surrounded with water. The Nen separates it from Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, on the east and south; the Welland does the same on the north, from the county of Lincoln; on the borders of which, at Croyland, those rivers have their confluence. The great Roman road called *Ermine-street*, passes through this district, under the provincial appellation, of *High Dyke*, and a vicinal branch, known by the name of the *Forty Foot-way*, to the north-west.

This district contains the city of PETERBOROUGH, *Minster Close*, and *Borough Fen*, extra-parochial, and the parishes of *Bainton, Barnack*, including the hamlets of Pilsgate and Southorpe, *Castor*, including the hamlet of Aleswort; *Elton and Woodcraft, Eye, Glinton, Helpstone, Marholm*, St. *Martins*, Stamford Baron, *Maxey*, including the hamlet of Deeping Gate; *Northborough, Paston*, including the hamlet of Werrington, *Peakirk, Sutton, Thornhaugh, Ufford*, including the hamlet of Ashton; *Upton, Wansford, Whittering, Wothorpe*, and the hamlets of Gunthorpe and Walton.

CASTOR is a village eminent for its antiquity, of which some notice has been taken in the description of the county of Huntington.* An extraordinary unanimity has prevailed among antiquaries respecting this place; Camden, Stukeley, and Horley having uniformly agreed to fix here the station, *Durobrovis* or *Durobrivæ*, mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus. This has been placed near the adjacent village of *Chesterton*, in the county of Huntingdon; and there can be little doubt, from the remains which have been discovered at each of these places, that its station and the appendages occupied both sides of the river. The next stations to the north and south, were *Duroli-*

*ponte*

* See Beauties, Vol. VII. p. 536.

*pante*, and *Causennis*,* as mentioned in the fifth Iter. The river here divides into two streams, forming a small island, which division rendered it favorable for the erection of mills, a capability the Britons would not fail to avail themselves of for the pulverization of their corn. The Romans did not, like the Saxons, generally impose new names on places in the vanquished country, but only romanized those they found already affixed. Thus *Dwrbrevan*, the water mills, from the British word *dwr*, water, and *brevan*, a mill, the Romans would naturally turn into Durobrivæ or Durobrivis, agreeably to the genius of their language. In addition to these convincing considerations, a further demonstration is derived from the numerous remains, discovered at different times in the vicinity; some of which have already been described in the seventh volume of this work. The traces also of several vicinal roads to fortified posts, in the neighbourhood are visible: one just above Gunwade-Ferry, and another goes from Castor to the camp at Aldwarkton, in the county of Huntingdon.† In digging up part of the camp at Castor, for the purpose of enlarging a garden, was found a small bronze statue, only three inches in length, but finely executed, representing in the Thracian manner, Jupiter Terminales, as a man without arms, lessening gradually from the centre, and standing upon a square pyramid. This, which is embellished with various emblematic devices, was evidently one of

* To reconcile the distances between Durobrovis and Causennis fixed at Ancaster, and Lindo, the next at Lincoln, Horsley supposes, that through the mistake of transcribers XXX and XXVI. the numerals in the Itinerary, have been transposed for XXXVI. and XX. See Beauties, Vol. IX. p. 762. In this case the distance of thirty-three English miles between Ancaster and this point, the river Nen, answers to the thirty-six Roman millia. The number between the next station *Duroliponte* is in Antoninus XXV. but in Richard of Cirencester XX. which latter will bring us to Godmanchester, where Stukeley was inclined to consider the site of the station; or to Huntingdon, where it has been fixed in the present work. See Beauties, Vol. VII. p. 346.

† Gibson's Commentary upon part of the fifth journey of Antoninus, &c. p. 114.

of the *dii termini*, which ranked among the *Lares publici, et patrii* of the Roman people. Numerous fragments of *tessellated pavements* have been discovered in different places; urns, and other antique fictible vessels, ruined walls, and great quantities of coins, of most of the Roman emperors, from Trajan to Valens. From a coin found belonging to the XIX Legion, it has been supposed a cohort of cavalry, from that body, was stationed here.

In the time of the Saxons, a Nunnery was founded at Gastor by *Kyneburga*, wife of Alfred, a Norman prince, and daughter of Penda, king of Mercia. The founder left the court and her consort, to superintend the devoted virgins; and the place subsequently obtained the name of *Kyneburg-ceastre*. The church here is dedicated to St. Kyneburga, and it is probable that some parts of the present structure was built soon after the death of the saint. It is certainly a very curious specimen of what is commonly termed Saxon architecture. It consists of a naev, north and south ailes, transept, and chancel. In the center is a massy tower, surmounted by a pyramidal spire, and rests upon four circular arches. The battlments are decorated with curious sculpture, and the upper part of the tower is embellished with two fascia of larger and smaller arcades, with windows, &c. The roof of the nave is constructed of wood, and the cieling is ornamented with figures of angels presenting shields charged with keys saltire, the arms of the see of Peterborough, and others holding models of a church. The capitals of those columns, nearest the chancel, are enriched with the figures of men and beasts; on one is a boar pursued by dogs, and a man in the act of killing him with a spear; on another is represented one voracious animal devouring another.

The three arches on the south side of the nave, are semi-circular, resting on massy round pillars; the opposite three are pointed and supported by hexagonal columns. The arch of the transept is semi-circular, and the pillars round with nail-head capitals. At the east end of the north aile, is a monument said to be the shrine of St. Kyneburga, composed of five arches, under

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an embattled cornice, over a round arch, and below, are nine enriched quatrefoil arches, under the centre of which is an embattled sarcophagus. Within a semicircular stone frame, over the south door of the chancel, is the following inscription, in Saxon characters " XVo. KL. MAI DEDICA TIO—HVI' ECL'E. A. D. M.oC.XIII."

Though this inscription is tolerably perfect, yet it is impossible to say, if the date was originally inserted, or inscribed subsequently to the letters. It is also uncertain whether the above be the correct date; for the XIII. or XIIII. at the end, and the C. or the letter that precedes the X are not clearly defined. Hence antiquaries are divided in opinion on the subject, and this is rendered a theme of conjecture.

Over the south porch on the outside is represented in relief an half length figure of a man, with a radiance round his head, the massy wooden door, which is very ancient, having a singularly constructed lock, is this inscription:

" ⊕Ricardus Bery, *rectoris*
Ecclesiæ de Castre fe - - - * - - - -
- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

In the north aile, a flat stone records the memory of a distinguished native. John Landen, an eminent mathematician, and Fellow of the Royal Society, in the transactions of which society he published several papers upon the more abstruse departments of arithmetical, and geometrical investigation. He published also "Mathematical Lucubrations," and two volumes of Mathematical Memoirs; and died January 15, 1790, in the seventy-first year of his age. In the church-yard is a fragment of an old stone *Cross*, with sculpture.

In the vicinity of Castor, near Gunwade Ferry, are two large upright *stones*, provincially called *Robin Hood* and *Little John*. Gunton, in his History of Peterbugh, says, they were set up as evidences that the carriages of stone from Barnack quarries, might pass this ferry without paying toll.

Milton, called Abbey-Milton, because it formerly belonged

to the Abbots of Medenhamstead, is the seat and property of Earl Fitzwilliam. The house, a large irregular edifice, has evidently been built at different times; the oldest appears about the age of Elizabeth, though the Fitz-williams's had resided here long before. When Fothinghay Castle was demolished, several pieces of stained glass were removed from the windows there, and inserted in those at Milton. The house also contains several pictures, and other objects of beauty and rarity. Among the portraits, is one of Mary *Queen of Scotts*, painted, as Bridges states, in 1582. Another of *James I.* when a boy, with an inscription: "This picture was given to Sir William Fitz-william, by Mary Queen of Scots, on the morning of her execution, for the humane treatment she had met with during her mprisonment, at Fotheringhay, whereof he was governor."*

Marham Church, contains several monumental memorials to different persons of the Fitzwilliam family. The chancel was built by Sir William Fitzwilliam, some time before the year 1534, as in that year he made a will requesting to be interred in the *newly* erected part of the church. His tomb is ornamented with various armorial insignia, with two effigies of Sir William and his lady; and this inscription:

"Sir Wyllyam Fytzwyllyams, knyght, decessyd the IX day of August in the XXVI yere of our soverayn Lorde kyng Henry the VIII. in anno. Domini M,CCCCC.XXXIIII. and lyeth beuried under this tombe."

Another monument, with an effigy of a man in armour, and his wife lying by his side, records the memory of *Sir William Fitzwilliam, Knt.* three times deputy, or lord-lieutenant of Ireland, in the time of Queen Elizabeth; and for thirty years commander in chief of her army there. He died in June 1599. Anne his wife, was daughter of Sir William Sidney, grandfather to the first earl of Leicester. Within the communion rails, another

* A list of the pictures, with some biographical notices of the lords of the manor, may be seen in Gibson's "Comment. &c. on the 5th Iter. &c."

another monument commemorates *Winifred Fitzwilliam,* wife of William Fitzwilliam, Esq. of Dosthorp, daughter of Sir Walter Mildmay, knt. of Apethorpe. She died August 10, 1597.

A magnificent marble monument, with four columns, supporting an entablature, and having on one side, Grief personified, and Piety on the other. On a slab, are the recumbent figures of a nobleman in his robes, and his lady. A Latin ininscription states, that it is sacred to the memory of the *Right Hon. William Earl Fitzwilliam,* who died December 28, A. D. 1719; and to Ann, his Countess, who died February 4, 1717. This monument was executed by " Jacob Fisher, of Camberwell."

The *font* is particularly deserving of notice, as one which is referable to an early period; the basin is excavated in an hexagon entablature, supported by *five* round columns, and the faces of the font are ornamented by compartments, each bearing a rose, with a pendant leaf.

Lolham Bridges, in the parish of Maxey, are considered subjects of curiosity. They are of great antiquity, and were originally designed to carry the Ermine-street, over the fenny grounds adjacent to the river Welland. This part of the road is supposed to have been made, or repaired, by Lollius Urbicus, who was proprætor in Britain, in the reigns of Hadrian, and Antoninus, A. D. 144, whence the name is probably derived. Camden observed, that in his time were to be seen eleven arches, though ruinous with age; and Morton states, there were fourteen. Here are now four bridges, two consisting of three arches each, one of four, and one of two, and these are repaired at the expence of the county. On several parts of these are names and dates, allusive to the different repairs they have undergone; but an inscription at the end of an abutment to one of the arches, though not yet decyphered, is perhaps coeval with the erection of the original structure. It is $\frac{\text{PE}}{\text{COT}}$ --but accompanied by no date. From these bridges the Roman road extends to Cates-bridge, and thence passes nearly in a right line

over the heath to Lincoln. In this vicinity numerous coins have been dug up, and other vestiges are indicative of the Romans having been in possession of this part of the country.

The steps to the altar in the church of HELPSTON, are ornamented with fragments of tessellated pavements, brought from some place in the neighbourhood: they consist of two circles, each having five rays of different colours, proceeding from the centres to the circumference; thus forming the representation of two stars. The floor of the chancel has been repaired also with tessellæ.

At *Torpwell*, in the parish of ASHTON, was discovered a circular hollow place, having the sides walled up with stone; which from its shape, ashes, and iron slag strewed near, and other circumstances, was probably an iron furnace in the time of the Romans.

## PETERBOROUGH OR PETERBURGH,

As already noticed, was not made a city, till the reign of Henry the Eighth, who having dissolved the monasteries, deemed it an expedient act of state-policy to increase the number of sees. At an early period this place was distinguished, in the Anglo-saxon annals, for its monastery, which was of extensive jurisdiction, and large establishment, and as the history of this is of primary consequence, it will be expedient to detail it at some length.

As early as the year 656, the foundation of a monastery was laid at Medeshamsted, by Peada, the eldest son of Penda, king of the Mercians. To complete the foundation, the monks deemed it necessary to invent a miracle; after which the establishment was endowed with lands and other revenues, about the year 664, by Wolfere, the succeeding king, with the assistance of Ethelred, his brother, and his sisters Kyneburga, and Kyneswitha. The charter of this foundation was sealed and confirmed in the presence of Kings, Nobles, and Bishops, in the 7th year of the king's reign. By this charter, the bounds of the monastic

monastic estates, were extended for a space of nearly twenty miles, east and west; and the foundation or understructure of the buildings consisted of stones of such a size, according to the old writers, that eight yoke of oxen could with difficulty draw one of them. The stone was obtained from Barnack, near Stamford. The monastery now compleated, flourished during the succession of seven abbots; when enriched by various privileges and immunities, it was nearly annihilated by the fire and sword of the Danes. The abbot Hedda and his monks were slain, and the country people who had fled for shelter to the monastery, were also slaughtered. The altars and monuments were demolished, and the church, with the adjacent buildings was set on fire, and continued in flames for fifteen successive days! The monastery thus destroyed, with its abbot and monks slaughtered, its government overthrown, and its lands alienated, continued in a state of ruin for ninety-six years. Its restoration was effected in the year 970, by Athelwold, Bishop of Winchester, with the assistance of King Edgar and his Queen. The king accompanied by Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, Oswald, Archbishop of York, and most of the nobility and clergy in England, attended to lay a new foundation, and in their presence confirmed its former privileges and possessions, with oblations of land, silver, and gold. At this assembly the name of the place was changed from Medeshamsted to *Burgh*, and from the wealth, splendor, and privileges of the monastery, obtained the name of *Gilden-burgh*, or the Golden City. In reference to the Saint to whom the dedication was made; this name was afterwards exchanged for Peter-burgh. The monastery, even at this early period, had attained a high degree of power. Kings, Lords, Bishops, and Abbots, pulled off their shoes at its gate, and entered barefooted, and its members were held in such esteem, that wherever they travelled, the respect and veneration of the neighbourhood followed their steps.

Thus re-edified, the monastery afterwards enjoyed a share of prosperity, but not unmixed with misfortunes. Amidst the former may be enumerated the various relicts of different Saints, with which the church was stored, and the addition of more real

endowments by the grants of various lands and manors. Among these, Elsinus, the eleventh abbot, gave a fourth part of Whittlesea Mere. Leofric, his successor, redeemed certain lands belonging to the monastery, in Fisherton, Fleton, and Burleigh; and Brando, the succeeding abbot, while a monk, bestowed lands situated in not less than fourteen parishes. But among these grants, many heavy losses were sustained. Hoveden, in Yorkshire, and other lands were wrested from it, and its abbot Brando, who espoused the cause of Edgar Atheling, as lawful heir to the crown, compounded with the conqueror, and obtained his favour for a confirmation of his own dignity and the lands of his monastery, at the expence of 40 marks.

Under the government of Thoroldus, his successor, a Norman, the monastery suffered still more. He dispersed the lands belonging to his church, conferring sixty-two hides upon certain stipendiary knights, to defend him against Howard de Wake, and erected a *castle*, within the precincts of the monastery, which long retained the appellation of *Mount-Thorold*. During the subsequent invasion of the Danes, Heseward united with them at their entrance into the Isle of Ely, and assailed the buildings with fire, carrying off every thing of value, and leaving the monastery, and one house in the town alone standing. Their wealth and reliques were transported to Denmark, on the departure of the Danes from the kingdom. The goods of the monastery estimated at 1500*l.* were, by the profusion of this abbot, reduced to scarcely 500*l.* who, at last taken by Heseward, ransomed himself with the payment of thirty marks of silver.

The reign of his successor was not less unfortunate. During the only year of his government, thieves from Almain, France, and Flanders, broke into the church, and stole many treasures of gold, which were never recovered. In this state the monastery continued till the year 1116, when a second, but accidental conflagration, consumed every part but the chapter house, dormitory, and refectory, which had been newly erected. The flames, driven by the wind, communicated to the town, and consumed the

the greater part of that also. In the year 1118, a new church was begun by John de Salisbury, the reigning abbot, of which his death in 1125, prevented the completion. This seems to have been the origin of the present cathedral; and of this with its successive alterations and additions, an account will be given hereafter.

The buildings of the monastery were perfected under the abbotship of Martin de Vecti, who in the year 1144, brought the reliques and monks into the new church, twenty-three years after the conflagration. At the dedication of it there were present Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, the Abbots of Thorney, Croyland, Ramsey, and others; and to these were exhibited the arm of St. Oswald, and various other holy reliques. King Stephen afterwards honoured this arm with a visit, to which he offered his ring, forgiving the church at the same time forty marks, and confirming to it many privileges. During the reign of this abbot, the town of Peterborough is supposed to have been removed from the eastern side of the monastery, to the situation which it now occupies.

Under the government of William de Waterville, the eight hundreds, of that part of the county, which had been granted by former kings, were again restored to the abbey. The buildings already began, were still further perfected, and new ones added. The *cloister* was built and covered with lead, and the *choir and transepts of the church*, erected in the style, in which they now appear. In the time of Benedict, the succeeding abbot, still further additions were made. The *nave of the church*, from the lantern to the west front, with its ceiling of wood, were newly built, and the *great tower gate*, leading to the monastery, with a chapel over it, were also completed about this time.

The last abbot advanced to the government of the monastery, was John Chambers, a native of Peterborough, who was elevated to that dignity in the year 1528. In 1534 the abbot, prior, and 37 monks, professed under their hands and common seal, their fidelity and obedience to the king, and acknowledged him the only supreme head of the church.

In 1535 *Queen Katherine*, the first wife of King Henry the Eighth, was interred in the church of this monastery, between two pillars on the north side of the choir, near the altar. Her hearse was covered with a black velvet pall, crossed with a white cloth of silver. This was afterwards exchanged for one of inferior value, which, with the escutcheons fixed to it, were taken away during the rebellion in 1643.

On the 30th of Nov. 1539, an inventory was taken of the goods belonging to the church and monastery; and in the following year both were resigned into the king's hands, the abbot retaining an annual pension of 260*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* In 1541 the king, by letters patent, converted the monastery into an episcopal see, and the conventual church into a cathedral. The government of it was entrusted to a bishop, a dean, and six prebendaries, whose jurisdiction extended over the City of Peterborough and the County of Northampton. It was ordained at the same time, that the Archdeacon of Northampton, who, together with the county, had hitherto been subject to the authority of the Bishop of Lincoln, should in future be subordinate to the jurisdiction of the new bishop.

The monastery thus dissolved, and its establishment changed, had been governed, from its foundation, by a succession of forty-five abbots, who had summons to parliament as early as the reign of Henry the Third; and its revenues, during this period, had increased to the annual sum of 1721*l.* Upon the erection of the episcopal see, these revenues were divided into three parts, two of which were afterwards considerably impaired. One the king reserved for himself, another was assigned to the see for the maintenance of a bishop, and the third formed the endowment of the dean and chapter.

Of the bishops who successively filled the newly formed see, a catalogue has already been given in p. 12; and to the preceding account, it will only be necessary to add a statement of the principal occurrences which have happened in the cathedral, from the foundation of the bishopric to the present time.

In the reign of Queen Mary, this church was again submitted

ted to the authority of the See of Rome, and in 1556, Pope Paul the Fourth, by a bull under his hand, and seal presented and confirmed David Pool, a papist, as bishop therein. This appointment was not of long duration. Protestantism was again revived in the reign of Elizabeth, and this bishop, together with the remnants of popery, were then ejected for ever.

In 1587, the funeral of *Mary, Queen of Scots,* was here solemnised. The body of the queen was brought from Fotheringhay Castle, where she was beheaded, on the night of Sunday the 30th of July, and at two o'clock on Monday morning, was committed to the vault prepared for it on the south side of the choir, close to the bishop's throne, which was immediately closed without the performance of any religious service. A rich hearse was erected near the grave, and the choir and church were hung with black. The performance of the funeral service took place, however, on Tuesday afternoon, and was attended by thousands of spectators, and many of the nobility, the heralds, and other officers of the crown. Those of the Kingdom of Scotland, who had thus far beheld the fate of their queen, here stopped, and bade an adieu to her remains for the last time. They indignantly refused either to enter the church, or to be present at the last ceremonies.

On this occasion the service was read by Fletcher the Dean, and a sermon preached by the Bishop of Lincoln, who, steering between a fear of protestantism on one hand, and a respect due to deceased popery on the other, treated only of the miseries annexed to the vale of mortality; and in reference to the subject before him, cautiously spoke as follows.

"Let us give thanks for the happy dissolution of the high and mighty princess Mary, late Queen of Scotland, and Dowager of France, of whose life and death at this time, I have not much to say, because I was not acquainted with the one, neither was I present at the other: I will not enter into judgment further, but because it hath been signified unto me, that she trusted to be saved by the blood of Christ, we must hope well of her salvation: For as Father Luther was wont to say, many one that liveth a papist, dieth a protestant."

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The body of the queen did not rest long in its grave. For twenty-five years after the interment, King James, as a duty appertaining to the remains of his mother, wrote to the Church of Peterborough, and ordered the translation of her body to Westminster, which was accordingly done on the 11th of October, 1612. The epitaph suspended on the wall over the vault was afterwards taken down and cast out of the church. The last act of violence which the cathedral of Peterborough sustained, was during the rebellion of 1643; a narrative of the transactions which occurred at that time, is given by Gunton in his history of this church. In that year the parliamentary forces entered the city, broke open the church doors, pulled down the stalls, trampled upon the organ, and tore in pieces whatever books they could find belonging to the church. The monuments and painted windows, with every ornamental decoration, all shared in the common destruction. In this state of ruin and desolation, the church continued for the space of eight years, when the damages which it had sustained were in some measure repaired, its ornaments replaced, and so much of the building restored, as was necessary for the performance of divine service. In 1660, Dr. Cosin, the exiled dean returned, and assumed his right of government; when the service of the church was again continued, and a considerable part of its alienated lands recovered.

*Architecture, Plan, and Periods of Erection.* The style of architecture prevailing in this building is that denominated Norman, of which the circular arch and large column, form the leading characteristics. This, in the present instance, as well as in others, has erroneously obtained the denomination of Saxon, although no part of the present cathedral appears to have been erected antecedent to the year 1118, when the monastery was destroyed by fire. The plan corresponds with that of most other cathedrals: and consists of a nave with side ailes, a transept, a choir terminating at the east end semicircularly, and surrounded with a continuation of the side ailes of

the nave, the whole terminated at the east, by what is called the *new building*. In the centre is a tower, rising from the four arches, by which the several parts of the structure are connected together. The *west front* is formed by a portico, or porch, of three lofty arches, in the centre of which is a small Chapel. The dimensions of the building, with its several parts, are thus stated. Length of the whole cathedral externally, including the buttresses, 471 feet; of the nave from the west door, to the entrance into the choir 267; of the choir 117; and from the altar of the choir, to the east window 38: making in the whole 422 feet. The length of the transept, from north to south is 180 feet. The height of the nave, from the floor to the ceiling, is 81 feet; of the central tower from the floor to the summit, 135; whilst its whole height, externally, is 150 feet. The breadth of the nave, from the north wall to the south, is 78 feet; and the breadth of the west front 156 feet.

The several periods of erection of these parts of the building, may be assigned as follow. The *choir* with its *ailes*, from the circular extremity at the east, to the commencement of the transept on the west, was begun in the year 1118, and completed in 1143. Between the years 1155 and 1177, the *transept* was erected; and between 1177, and 1193, the *nave*, with its ailes, were completed to the termination of the pillars, which divide the nave and side ailes on the west. A further addition was made about 1288, when the space between the extreme pillar, and the west door of entrance was finished, forming a projection on each side of the western extremity, and terminated by two towers.

The *Lady Chapel* abutting on the east side of the north transept, was built by William Parys, the Prior in the fourteenth century. This building was in a ruinated state at the time of the rebellion, and was soon afterwards taken down, and sold by the inhabitants of the place, to defray the repairs of the damages which the cathedral then sustained. At what period the west portico, with its three arches, was erected, is not precisely known. The chapel in the centre arch, assigned by Mr. Gun-

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ton to the same age as the wetstern front is in a style of architecture of a much later date.

The *new building*, at the eastern extremity of the choir, was erected by Richard Ashton in the middle of the fifteenth century, and probably completed by Abbot Kirton about 1518. This building formed the last addition made to the church, before the dissolution of the monastery by Henry the Eighth, making a period of 400 years, from the foundation of the present church in 1118, to the final completion of this addition in the year 1518. This chapel is supposed to have been designed by Sir Reginald Bray, who, in the time of Abbot Kirton, was here; and allowed by the monastery "a due proportion of diet, for a number of dishes."

The *Close*, west of the cathedral, is nearly surrounded by ancient monastic buildings. On the south side is a range of architecture, presenting several fine and interesting parts; in the centre of which is a large tower-gateway, communicating to the bishop's palace. At the west end is the entrance gateway from the town, already noticed; and to the north is the deanry, the entrance to which is through a very rich and highly ornamented gateway. This is said to have been built by Abbot Kirton, about the year 1515. South of the cathedral, was a large *cloister*, 138 by 131 feet, which has been almost wholly demolished.

*St. John's Church*, near the centre of the city, contains a large *altar-piece*, painted by R. K. Porter: also a beautiful monumental tablet, with figures, by Flaxman, R. A.

Symon Gunton, author of the history of Peterburgh Church, was a native of this place, wherein he resided the greater part of his life, and died here in 1676.

At Norborough, about seven miles north of Peterborough, are the remains of a large, and rather curious old manor house, now belonging to Earl Fitzwilliam, but formerly possessed by the Cleypoles. In this mansion died the wife of Oliver Cromwell, whose daughter, Elizabeth, married John Cleypole of this

place. Attached to the church, is a chantry, called *Cleypole's Chapel,* in which are some mutilated monuments to different persons of that family. In the parish register is this entry: "Eliz. relict of Oliver Cromwell, was buried Nov. 19, 1665."

At MAXEY, near Lolham Bridges, was a *castle,* or *manor-house,* surrounded by a moat. Camden says that it belonged to the Barons of Wake: but this is questioned in Bridges's History. The church has some ancient parts; and contains a few old, but mutilated inscriptions. About two miles west of this is BAINTON, where Robert Henson, Esq. has a seat.

At UFFORD is a large handsome modern house, belonging to -------- Brown, Esq.

BARNACK, a village, is noted for its stone quarries, from which many fine churches have been erected. The church, at this place, contains several objects, in its tower, windows, porch, chapels, font, and tombs, to attract the attention, and afford interest to the antiquary.

BURLEIGH or BURGHLEY, the seat of the Cecil family, now the property of the Marquis of Exeter, a minor, may be ranked among the most splendid old houses, with spacious parks, in the kingdom; and therefore a comprehensive history and description, with discriminating criticisms on its vast collection of pictures, is a literary desideratum. In the present work, we can only give a very concise account. The house, and principal part of the demesne, are within the parish of Stamford St. Martin, in the church of which, are some costly monuments to different eminent persons of the Cecil family. [See Vol. VII. p. 405, of this work.] The park was formed, and house mostly built, by Lord Treasurer Burleigh,* in the time of Queen Elizabeth: and the

* In one of his lordship's letters, dated 1585, he says, "my house of Burleigh is of my mother's inheritance, who liveth, and is the owner thereof, and I but a farmer; and for the building there I have set my walls on the old foundations. Indeed I have made the rough stone walls to be square, and yet one side *remaineth as my father left it me.*"

the following inscription, over one of the entrances within a central court, records the era of this work. " W. DOM. DE BVRGHLEY, 1577." Beneath the turret is the date of 1585, when some great additions were made to the mansion; and the present grand entrance, towards the north, appears to have been added in 1587. Since these dates, several material alterations and additions, have been made by subsequent possessors: and the whole, as a building, with its vast and varied collection of works of art, the extensive and finely wooded park, and with a large lake, may be said to vie with the most splendid seats in the kingdom. The house surrounds a square court, to the east of which is the great hall, kitchen, various domestic offices, with spacious stables, coach-houses, &c. The south front commands a fine sloping lawn, with a broad expance of water, formed by Brown, also some interesting parts of park scenery: the western side has nearly the same views, with the advantage of distant objects in Rutlandshire, Lincolnshire, and the spires of Stamford. From the north front the ground gradually slopes to the river Welland: and from it an extensive tract of county is commended. As we cannot, on the present occasion, give a complete list of the pictures, and valuable curiosities, contained in this mansion, the reader is referred to a small volume, the title of which is specified in the list of books at the end: but a work of a superior kind has been announced for publication, by Mr. Drakard, a bookseller, of Stamford. He has also published views of the house, and entrance lodges.

About two miles to the west of Burleigh, are the ruins of WOTHORP or WORTHORP HOUSE. According to Camden, a mansion of considerable size was erected here by Thomas Cecil, the first Earl of Burleigh, who jocularly said, " he built it only to retire to out of the dust, while his great house at Burleigh was sweeping." After the restoration, the Duke of Buckingham resided here for some years.

In the village of THORNHAUGH are some remains of an old manor-house, which formerly belonged to the family of St.

*Medrid,*

*Medard,* or Semark: afterwards to the *Russells.* In the church is an old tomb, with an effigy in armour, and others in common dresses. It records the name, &c. of the *Right Honorable William Russel,* Knt. Baron of Thornhaugh; also those of Lord Francis, Lord John, and Lord Edward Russell.

END OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

# A LIST

OF THE

*Principal Books, Maps, and Views, that have been published in Illustration of the Topography and Antiquities of*

THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON.

"*Speculi Britanniæ pars altera; or a Delineation of Northamptonshire;* being a brief historicall and chronographicall Discription of that County: wherein are also alphabetically set down, the Names of cyties, townes, parishes, hamlets, houses of note, and other remarkables, pp. 80. By the travayle of John Norden, in the year MDCX. Lond. 1720." 8vo. "This is the most superficial," says Mr. Gough, "of all Master Norden's surveys, except in a few towns."

"*The Natural History of Northamptonshire;* with some Account of the Antiquities. To which is annexed a transcript of Domesday-Book, so far as it relates to that County, by John Morton, M.A. rector of Oxendon, in the same County, and Fellow of the Royal Society, formerly of Emanuel College in Cambridge, Lond. 1712." Folio. Some remarks on a Roman pavement at Nether Heyford described, p. 517—532, are in the review of Leland's Itinerary, Vol. IX. p. 197—202. The transcript of Domesday, Mr. Gough asserts to be false in every respect.

"*The History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire.* Compiled from the Manuscript Collections of the late learned Antiquary, John Bridges, Esq. By the Rev. Peter Whalley, late Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford. Oxford, 1791." Two Volumes Folio, pp. 672. 610. With a Portrait of Mr. Bridges, and 35 other Plates. The collections for this work were begun by Mr. Bridges in the year 1719, and extended to upwards of thirty folio volumes. After his death the MSS. were, by his brother, put into the hands of Mr. Gibbons, bookseller, at the Middle Temple Gate, who circulated proposals for a subscription, and engaged Dr. Samuel Jebb, a physician of Stratford, Essex, to arrange this chaos of materials, and form it into a regular history. It was then determined to publish it in numbers. After four years, the first number was printed, and five or six others succeeded. The publisher at that time became a bankrupt, the sub-

scriptions could not be recovered, and the work was discontinued. Several of the plates were dispersed and sold. The collections remained many years with Dr. Jebb, who had received little or no compensation. At length the gentlemen of the County took up the business. William Cartwright, Esq. one of the County Members, advanced the money necessary to discharge the demands of Dr. Jebb, and obtained possession of the MSS. A committee was formed, of which Sir Thomas Cave was chairman, to conduct the publication: and the materials were entrusted to the Rev. Mr. Whalley, by whom the whole compilation was formed, except the small part which has been incorporated from the numbers drawn up by Dr. Jebb. From the difficulties in such a work, and from Mr. Whalley's avocation (he being Grammar-master at Christ's Hospital) the publication was long delayed; and when completed, and partly committed to the press, the death of Sir Thomas Cave, and many others of the committee, so interrupted the work, that it languished in neglect for many years. At length the vacancies in the committee were supplied, the obstacles were surmounted, and the work was brought to a conclusion. This work was more than fifty years in progress, from the time Mr. Bridges commenced his collection till the second volume was published. Though it evinces much research, and contains a vast mass of information, yet it is very meagre in description; and the most interesting antiquities of the County are but slightly noticed, or are wholly neglected. A modern work, to supply these deficiencies, and give a full account of the various Roman, Saxon, Norman, and other antiquities, with accurate plates, is a great desideratum.

"*The History of the Church of Peterburgh:* wherein the most remarkable things concerning that place, from the first foundation thereof; with other passages of history, not unworthy public view, are represented. By Symon Gunton, late prebendary of that church. Illustrated with sculptures, and set forth by Symon Patrick, D.D. now dean of the same. Lond. 1686," Fol. The prints are E. W. and N. views of the church, by D. King, of which the two last are in the Monasticon, the beautiful high altar, destroyed 1643, and a N. view of the city.

"*An Epitome of Mr. Gunton's History of Peterborough Cathedral.* Containing a fuller and more precise account, than has hitherto been given, of the centuries, in which the several parts of this edifice were begun upon and completed. Peterborough, 1806." 8vo. pp. 45.

"*The State of Northampton,* from the beginning of the Fire, Sept. 20 1675, to Nov. 5; represented in a Letter to a Friend in London, and now recommended to all well-disposed persons in order to Christian Charity, and a speedy relief for the said distressed town and people, by a Country Minister. Licensed Nov. 22, 1675, Rog. Lestrange." Lond. 1675, 4to. 24 pages. Signed E. P.

"*A particular Entertainment of the Queene and Prince,* their Highnesse to Althorpe, at the Right Honourable the Lord Spencers, on Saturday, being the 25th of June, 1603, as they came first into the

kingdome; being written by the same author, and not before published." 13 pages, poetical and prose.

"*The History and Antiquities of Naseby*, in the County of Northampton, by the Rev. John Mastin, Vicar of Naseby." Cambridge, 1792, 8vo. pp. 206. A new edition of this work has lately been published.

"*A History or Description, general and circumstantial, of Burghley House*, the seat of the Right Honourable the Earl of Exeter." Shrewsbury, 1797, 8vo. pp. 205.

"*A Tract relating to Peterborough and Ramsay Abbies*, transcribed from a strange old defaced parchment MS. in the hands of Mr. Murray, of London, Gent." Preface to Hearne's edit. of Sprott's Chron. p. 169.

"*A true Relation of the taking of Grafton House* by the Parliament Forces, under the command of Serjeant Major Skippon. Lond. 1643." 4to.

"Succinct Genealogies of the noble and ancient Houses of Alno, or de Alneto, Broc of Shephale, Latimer of Duntish, Drayton of Drayton, Mauduit of Westminster, Greene of Drayton, Vere of Addington, Fitz-Lewis of West Hornedon, Howard of Effingham, Mordaunt of Turvey, justified by public records, ancient and extant Charters, &c. By Robert Hadstead, Lond. 1685." Folio. Illustrated with Plates of Arms, Seals, &c. Mr. Gough states, that the author's name is fictitious, the work being really compiled by Henry, Earl of Peterborough, and his Chaplain, Mr. Rans, Rector of Turvey, Bedfordshire. Only twenty-four copies of this work were printed, of which eight are known to be now extant, viz. two at Drayton-house, others in the British Museum, Devonshire-house, Herald's College, Caius College, and the Public Library, Cambridge.

"*An Account of the Trials and Condemnation of Elinor Shaw and Mary Phillips* (two notorious witches), at Northampton Assizes, March 7, 1705, with their Confessions of their familiarity with the Devil, &c. &c. Lond. 1705." 8vo.

Another Account of the same, under the title of "*The Northamptonshire Witches*," with their speeches at their execution, March 17, 1705, was published about the same time, 8vo.

"*The Witches of Northamptonshire*, Agnes Browne, Joane Vaughan, Arthur Bill, Hellen Jenkinson, Mary Barber, witches, who were all executed at Northampton the 22d of July last, 1712." 4to.

"*A Comment upon Part of the Fifth Journey of Antoninus through Britain;* in which the situation of *Durocobrivæ*, the seventh station there mentioned, is discussed; and *Castor*, in *Northamptonshire*, is shewn, from the various remains of Roman Antiquity, to have an undoubted claim to that situation. To which is added, A Dissertation on an Image of Jupiter found there. By the Rev. Kennet Gibson,

late Curate of Castor. Printed from the original MS. and enlarged with the Parochial History of Castor, and its dependencies to the present time. To which is subjoined, an account of Marham, and several other places in its neighourhood. Lond. 1800." 4to. pp. 302. With 12 plates.

*An Account of the Course of the Ermine Street*, through Northamptonshire, and of a Roman burying-place near it, by Sir Charles Frederick, is in the Archaeologia, Vol. I.

A Description of *Eston Neston*, the Seat of the Earl of Pomfret; with the Statues and Pictures, may be seen in Bathoe's "Catalogue of the Duke of Buckingham's Pictures, &c. Lond. 1758." 4to.

## MAPS.

"*The County of Northampton*, as surveyed and planned by the late Mr. Thomas Eyre of Kettering. Revised by the late Mr. Thomas Jefferys, Geographer to the King, and engraved by William Faden in 1779." First published by Mr. Faden in 1780; and a second edition revised and corrected in 1791. Four sheets. With Views of the Queen's Crosses at Geddington and Northampton.

## VIEWS.

Northampton, S. W. prospect of, by Collins and Harris, published by Tinney, with Views of the principal Buildings in the Town.

A large *View* of Northampton was engraved and published by N. and S. Buck in 1731.

A *Plan* of the Town was engraved in 1746, by J. Jefferies, with Views of the Churches and other remarkable Structures.

A smaller *Plan*, with distant View of the Town, is published in "*The British Atlas.*"

A *Plan*, with exterior and interior Views of *St. Sepulchre's Church* in this Town, were published in the Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain, Vol. I.

A *Plan*, with exterior and interior views of St. Peter's Church, were published in Vol. II. of the same Work, which contains also *Plans* and *Views* of the *Crosses* at Geddington, and also of that near Northampton.

*Peterborough Cathedral.* Plan and Section of N. side. Eayre del. Harris sc.

A large View of the *West Front*, by Collins, was engraved by Vandergucht about 1722. A large S. W. Prospect of the City, by Buck, in 1731.

Messrs Buck's engraved an E. View of Archbishop *Chichele's College*,

*lege*, at Higham-Ferrers, in 1729. Also E. View of *Rockingham Castle* in 1729. Also, in the same year, S. View of *Holdenby Palace;* S. of *Barnwell Castle;* W. of *Daventry;* N. of *Billing*, priories; and S. of *Drayton House.*

E. View of Lord Cullen's Seat at Rushton was engraved by Toms in 1741.

A *Roman Tesselated Pavement*, found near Cotterstock in 1736, was engraved by Vertue 1737, at the expence of the Society of Antiquaries. Another, forty yards long, found in Chapel-field at Weldon in 1738, was engraved by J. Cole, at the expence of Lord Hatton. Another found 1736, at Drayton, was drawn by Vertue for Lady Germain.

A large S. W. View of the Parish Church of Ecton, five miles from Northampton, built in the fifteenth century, was engraved by Toms in 1749.

A View of *Oundle Church*, was engraved by Cole, from a Drawing by De la Fontaine.

# INDEX

*To the Topographical Account of Northamptonshire,*

*FORMING PART OF THE ELEVENTH VOLUME*

OF THE

# BEAUTIES OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

The MARKET TOWNS are distinguished by Small Capitals; the *Villages* by Italics.


## A

ABBIES, St. James's, 147; Sulby, 163; Pipewell, 205.
*Abingdon*, seat, church, sepulchral memorials, 111.
Andrew, George, Bishop, account of, 57.
Althorpe, seat, 142; portraits, pictures, 143.
*Aldwinkle*, birth-place of Dryden and Fuller, 189-191.
ANECDOTES, of W. Catesby, 48; J. Catesby, 49; T. Randolph, 50; Bp. Reynolds, 51; H. Holland, 56; Bp. Andrew, J. Smith, 57; Sir R. Knightly, 63, 64; Bp. Wilkins, 66; N. Stone, Dr. T. Turner, 69; Sha. Marmion, Sir R. Winwood, 76; S. Clarke, 80; J. Friend, 81; Lord Crewe, N. Lord Crewe, 84; Catherine Parre, 87, 88; S. de Pateshull, H. de Pateshull, M. de Pateshull, Dr. R. Steward, 90; Sir R. Empson, 93; Anthony Lord Scales, 95, 96; E. Bernard, 97, 98; F. Crane, 98, 99; Lord Keeper Lane, 103, 104; J. Hervey, 107, 108; W. Wood, 108, 109; Earl of Halifax, 110; Sir Isaac Wake, 112; J. Bailes, 125; John of Northampton, S. Fisher, Bp. Parker, 137; Bp. Cartwright, 138; W. Beaufu, ib. R. Brown, 138, 139; Bp. Skinner, 140; F. Morgan, J. Stanbridge, Dr. Preston, 150; Sir Chr. Hatton, 152; Sir John Finett, 154; James Harrington, 155; R. Knolles, 157; W. Hacket, 213; P. Hansted, Dr. Newton, ib.; W. Law, 215; Bp. Braybrooke, 166; Sir Thomas Tresham, F. Tresham, 169; R. Talbot, 170; E. Bagshaw 173; B. Godwin, ib.; O. Manning, 176; P. Whalley, 177; Abp. Chichele, 185; Sir Henry Yelverton, 180.
*Apethorpe*, church, 213; monuments, seat, 214.
*Architecture, ancient*, ecclesiastical, domestic, 41.
*Ashby*, St. Ledger, church, tomb, 47; account of W. Catesby, 48; and J. Catesby, 49.
Ashby Lodge, seat, 49.
*Ashby Canons*, 86; priory, mansion-house, 87.
*Ashton*, church, monument, 93, 94.
Ashwell, ancient mansion at, 85.
Astrop Hall, seat, 82.
Avon, river, course of, 40.
*Aynho*, monumental memorials, 75; hospital, free-school, eminent natives, 76.

## B

*Badby*, encampment at, 49.
Bagshaw, Edward, divine, account of, 173.
Bainton, seat, 237.

Barton Seagrave Hall, seat, 192.
——— church, monuments, John Bridges, 181.
Barnack church, 237.
Beauju, W., friar, account of, 138.
*Benefield*, holes in the earth at, 210.
Bennavenna, Roman station, 3, 4, 60-62.
*Barnwell*, customs, 209
Bernard, Edward, mathematician, account of, 97, 98
*Billing, Great*, mansion, monument, account of Sir Isaac Wake, 112.
Billing, Little, ancient seat, 113.
Blatherwick Hall, seat, 201.
Borough Hill, encampment, 58; Burnt Walls, 59.
Boughton House, seat, 200.
*Boughton*, manor house, 113; remarkable fair, ruins of the church, 114.
Brackley, privileges, corporation, 77; representation, castle, churches, hospital, 78; alms-house, cross, 79; buildings, 80; account of S. Clarke, ib.
*Braybrooke*, monuments, 165; curious will, 166; castle, ib.
*Braunston*, church, cross, 50; peculiar tenure, 51; account of Bishop Reynolds, ib.
*Brigstock*, ancient custom, 201.
*Brington*, 144; monuments of the Spencer family, 144-146; church, 146.
Bridges, John, historian of this county, account of, 191.
*Brixworth*, ancient privileges, 171; church, curious relic, 172.
Brixworth Hall, seat, 172.
*Broughton*, 172; account of Edward Bagshaw, 173.
Brockhall House, seat, 147.
Brown, Robert, divine account of, 138, 139.
Burleigh House, seat, 237.

## C

Canals, 37, 38.
Castle Ashby, seat, mansion, 100; portraits, 101; church, 102.
Castle Dykes, ancient fortifications, 62, 63.
Castles, Warkworth, 86: Northampton 121, 122; at Brackley, 78; Braybrooke, 166; Rockingham, 207; Maxey, 237; Fotheringhay, 217.
*Castor*, the Roman station, Durobrivis, 223; Roman antiquities, 223; church, 224.
*Catesby*, priory, church, 52.
Catesby, William, account of, 49.
Charwell, river, course of, 40.
Chester, encampment, 136, 137.
Chichele, Henry, Archbishop, account of, 185, 186
CHIPPING-WARDEN Hundred, 71-74; parishes in, 71.
*Chipping Warden*, anciently a market town, entrenchment, 71, 72.
CHURCHES, described; Ashby St. Ledger, 47; Catesby, 52; Middleton Cheney, 82; Passenham, 96, 97; Whiston, 102, 103; in Northampton, All Saints, 125; St. Giles's, St. Peters, 126; St. Sepulchre's, 128; Spratton, 141; Brington, 146; Earl's Barton, 177; Wellingborough, 179; Fotheringhay, 219; Peterborough, 232; Barnack, 237.
Clarke, Samuel, writer, account of, 80.
CLELEY Hundred, 93-99; parishes in, 93.
Cliff-Regis, 215; account of Rev. W. Law, ib.
*Clopton*, monuments, 208.
*Cold Ashby*, 157; account of R. Knolles, ib.
*Collingtree*, account of the Rev. William Wood, 108, 109.
CORBY Hundred, 201-207; parishes in, 201.
*Cotterstock*, 216; tessellated pavement, ib.
Cotterstock Hall, seat, 216.
Cottesbrook House, seat, 157.
*Courtenhall*, free-school, church, monument, 103; account of Lord Keeper Lane, 103, 104.
Crane, Francis, Esq. account of, 98, 99.
Cranford Bridge, seat, 193.
Cross, Queen's, description of, 105-107.
—— at Geddington, 203; at Higham Ferrers, 185.
Crewe, Thomas Lord, account of, 84.
——— Nathaniel Lord, account of, ib.
*Croughton*, monument, 80; account of John Friend, 81.
Cumberland, Richard, birth-place of, 189.

*Dallington*,

## D

*Dallington*, church, monuments, account of Sir Joseph Jekyl, 147.
Danes Moor, scene of battles, 73, 74.
DAVENTRY, etymology, 53; priory, singular circumstances attending the dissolution, 54; charters, corporation, 55; grammar-school, 56; eminent natives, 56, 57.
*Deene*, monuments in church, 201.
Deenethorp Park, seat, 202.
Delapre, nunnery, 104.
Dingley Hall, seat, 203.
*Dodford*, sepulchral memorials, 70.
Dolben, John, Archbishop, account of, 189.
Drayton House, seat, 197.
Dryden, John, poet, account of, 189, 190.
Durobrivis, Roman station, 222.
*Duston*, ancient abbey, 147.

## E

*Earl's Barton*, church, 177.
*Easton Mauduit*, monuments, account of Sir H. Yelverton, 180, 181; church, 182.
*Easton-Neston*, mansion, monuments, 94, 95.
*Ecton*, account of Rev. Peter Whalley, 177.
Edgcot House, seat, curious sculpture, 73.
Empson, Sir Richard, lawyer, account of, 93.
ENCAMPMENTS, Castle Dykes, 4; Arbury Banks, 5, 49, 71; Huntsborough Camp, 8, 104; Borough Hill, 57, 158; Castle Hill, 74; Rainsborough, 82, 83; Barrow Dykes, 140; Chester, 186.

## F

Farming Woods Hall, seat, 211.
*Farthingstone*, Castle Dykes, ancient fortifications, 62, 63.
FAWSLEY Hundred, 46-71; situation of, 46; parishes in, 47.
*Fawsley*, church, monuments, account of Sir R. Knightly, 63, 64, account of Bishop Wilkins, 66.
Fawsley House, seat, hall, chimney-piece, 65; park, 66.
Finett, Sir John, account of, 154.
*Fenedon*, fine church, 198.
*Fineshade*, priory and seat, 203.
Fisher, Samuel, divine, account of 137.
*Flore*, 148.
*Fotheringhay*, castle, prison of Mary Queen of Scots, 216; college, 219; church, 220; monuments, ib.; school, 221.
Fox Hill, remarkable elevation, 170.
Friend, John, physician, account of, 31.
Fuller, Rev. Thomas, historian, account of, 190, 191.

## G

*Geddington*, cross described, 208.
Godwin, Francis, Bishop, account of, 173.
*Grafton*, mansion, account of Anthony, Lord Scales, 95, 96.
GREEN'S NORTON Hundred, 86-89; parishes in, 86.
*Green's Norton*, birth-place of Catherine Parre, 87.
*Gretton*, monuments to the Hattons, 204.
GUILSBOROUGH Hundred, 156-164; parishes in, 156, 157; Roman encampment, 158.
——————— Hall, seat, 159.

## H

Hacket, William, enthusiast, account of, 212.
Halifax, Charles, first Earl of, account of, 110.
HAMFORDSHOE Hundred, 177-179; parishes in, 177.
*Haningtón*, account of Bishop Godwin, a native, 173
Hansted, Peter, divine, account of, 213.
*Hardingstone*, monuments of the Harvey family, 107; account of Rev. J. Hervey, 107, 108.
*Harlestone*, Delves, ragstone, 147.
Harlestone House, seat, 148.
Harrington, James, memoirs of, 156.
*Harrowden, Great*, account of the Vaux family, 174; manor house, church, 175.
Hatton, Sir Christopher, Lord Chancellor, account of, 152.

*Helmdon*, ancient inscription, 81.
*Helpston*, church, 229.
Henchman, Humfrey, account of, 192.
Hervey, James, divine, account of, 107, 108-141.
*Heyford, Nether*, tesselated pavement, 148; church, 149; monument, eminent natives, 150.
HIGHAM FERRERS Hundred, 180-189; parishes in, 180.
HIGHAM FERRERS, ancient castle, 182; church, sculpture, 183; college, school, almshouse, 184; representation, cross, 185; account of Abp. Chichele, a native, 185, 186.
Higham Park, seat, 188.
*Holdenby*, 150; mansion-house, 151; palace and prison of Charles I. 152; some account of Sir Christopher Hatton, 152, 153.
Holland, Henry, divine, account of, 56.
*Horton*, church, monument, 109.
Horton House, seat, account of Charles, first Earl of Halifax, 110.
Hunsborough, encampment, 104.
HUXLOE Hundred, 189-207; parishes in, 189.

I

*Irthlingburgh*, church, chantry, chapel, tomb of John Pyel, 193.

K

Kelmarsh Hall, seat, 166.
KETTERING, 194; church, Dr. John Gill, native, 195.
*King's Sutton*, church, St. Rumbald's Well, 82.
KING'S SUTTON Hundred, 75-86; parishes in, 75.
*Kingsthorpe*, privileges, 114; ruins of the hospital of St. David, 115.
Kirby Hall, described, 204.
Knolles, Richard, author, account of, 157.

L

Lactodorum, Roman station, 3, 4.
*Lamport*, church, monument, 175.
Lamport Hall, seat, ib.
Lane, Lord Keeper, account of, 103, 104.
Latimer, Lady Elizabeth, monument of, 68.
Law, William, divine, account of, 215.
Laxton Hall, 205.
Leam, river, course of, 40.
*Lichborough*, ancient garrisoned town, 67.
*Lilborn*, Roman station, and remains, 159, 160.
*Lilford*, church, monuments, 195.
Lilford House, seat, 196.
Livedon House, ruins of, described, 208.
Lolham Bridges, 227.
*Lowick*, church, monuments, 197.

M

Manning, Owen, divine and author, 176.
*Marham*, church, monuments, 226.
Marmion, Shakerly, poet, account of, 76.
Maxey, castle, 237.
*Middleton Cheney*, church, battle, 82.
Milton, seat, 225.
Monasteries, &c. list of, 9-11.
MONUMENTS, of Dr. T. Turner, W. Lord Parr, 43; William Catesby, 48; T. Randolph, 50; Sir R. Knightly and family, 63-65; Lady Elizabeth Latimer, 68; Dr. Thos. Turner, 69, 70; W. Friend and sons, 80; Thomas and Temperance Crewe, 83; John Lord Crewe and N. Lord Crewe, Bp. of Durham, 84; W. Sponne, 92; Johan Harteshall, 94; Sir George and Sir Hatton Fermor, 95; Francis Crane, 99; Sir John, Sir Humphrey, and Sir Anthony Catesby, 103; Mrs. Irby, ib.; Harvey family, 107; William Lord Parre, 109; Sir John Spencer, Sir William Spencer, 144; Sir Robert Spencer, 145; Sir Edward Spencer, John Earl Spencer, 146; Francis Morgan, 150; Sir Thomas Samwell, Sir Richard Knightly, 158; Hattons, Watsons, 206; Dudleys, 208; Rowland Woodward, Esq. 214; Sir Anthony Mildmay, 214; Sir John Leigh, 214; Caves, 163; Clarkes, 163; Lord Cullen, 169; Yelvertons, 180; Fitzwilliams, 226.

Morgan, Francis, judge, anecdotes of, 150.
Morton, Thomas, Bishop, some account of, 181.

N

NAVISFORD Hundred, parishes in, 208.
NASABURGH Hundred, 221; parishes in, ib.
*Naseby*, 161; formerly a town, manufactures, 162.
Naseby-Field, battle of, 162.
Nen, river, course of, 38, 39.
NEWBOTTLE GROVE Hundred, 141-156; parishes in, 142.
*Newbottle*, old manor house, 82.
*Newenham*, account of Thomas Randolph, 50.
Newton, Dr. John, divine and mathematician, account of, 213.
*Norborough*, church, 237.
NORTHAMPTON, county town, ancient importance of, 115; historical events, 116; synods, &c. 116, 117; university established, 118; boy crucified, ib.; parliaments held here, 118, 119; fires, 119; walls and gates, 120; the castle, 121, 122; corporation, charters, and privileges, 123; parliamentary representation, contested elections, 124; churches, 124-131;—All Saints, 125; St. Giles's, St. Peter's 126; St. Sepulchre's, 128;—destroyed churches, 129, 130;—Religious foundations,—St. Andrew's Priory, 130; Franciscans, Dominicans, 131; Austin Friars, All Saints College, hospitals of St. John and St. Thomas, 132;—infirmary, 133; gaols, schools 134; meeting-houses, 135; old mansions, streets, &c. 136; eminent natives, 137-139.
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, general history, topography, and local character of, 1 to 239; boundaries, and legal decision thereof, 1; dimensions, divisions, ancient hundreds, and wapentakes, 2; Roman antiquities, stations, and roads, 3, 4; encampments, 4, 5; pavements, 6, 7; ancient history and division of the county, manors and proprietors, 7-9; abbies, priories, and religious houses, 9-11; ecclesiastical history, 11, 12; Bishops of Peterborough, 12-17; titles of honor, 17, 18; seats of nobility and gentry, 18-21; geographical description, 21-23; Peterborough Fen, 24; woodlands, ib.; Salcey Forest, 25-30; Whittlewood Forest, 30-34; Rockingham Forest, 34-36; canals, 37, 38; rivers, 38-40; roads, bridges, 40; manufactures, 41; ancient architecture, 41, 42; fonts, 42; sepulchral monuments, 42, 43, number and maintenance of the poor, 44, 45; population of the several hundreds, 46.

O

ORLINGBURY Hundred, 171-176; parishes in, 171.
*Orlingbury*, account of Rev. Owen Manning, 176.
OUNDLE, church, almshouse, schools, bridges, natives, 211.
Ouse, river, course of, 39.
Overstone Hall, seat, 139.
*Oxendon, Great*, 166; remarkable echo, 167.

P

Parre, Queen Catherine, account of, 87, 88.
Parker, Bishop, account of, 137, 138.
*Passenham*, church, sculpture, 96, 97.
*Paulerspury*, church, tomb, account of Edward Bernard, 97.
*Pateshull*, 89; eminent natives, 90.
PETERBOROUGH, city, history, and description of, 228; Cathedral described, 233.
——— Bishops of, account of the, 12-17.
Pipewell Abbey, 205.
*Pitsford*, springs, encampment, account of Bishop Skinner, 140.
Pitsford Hall, seat, ib.
POLEBROOKE Hundred, 209-213; parishes in, 209.
Poor, number, maintenance, and expenditure on account of, 44, 45.
Population, list of in the several hundreds, &c. 46.
PORTRAITS. Bishop Compton, Sir Stephen Fox, Earls of Northampton, George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham,

inghan, Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury, 101; Cornaro, Lord Lucan, Lord Althorpe, Lady Camden, Verrio, Rubens, Henry VIII. Duke of Newcastle, Countess of Falmouth, Countess of Southampton, Earl of Bristol, Duke of Bedford, Lady Digby, Ignatius Loyola, Duchess of Devonshire, Rembrandt's Mother, 143; Charles XII. of Sweden, Lord Wenman, Sir William Fermor, Sir John Finett, 154; Countess of Bedford, Q. Mary, Edward IV. Edward VI. 155; James I. Oliver Cromwell, Shakespeare, 156; Duke of Richmond, Countess of Westmoreland, Mary Queen of Scots, 226; King James, ib.

*Potterspury*, ancient pottery at, 93.

Preston, Dr. John, divine, account of, 150.

PRIORIES, Catesby, 52; Daventry, 54; Ashby Canons, 86, 87; Sewardsley, 95; St. Andrews, Northampton, 130; Rothwell, 168.

Pytchely, seat, 176.

R

Rainsborough, encampment, 82, 83.

Randolph, Thomas, poet, account of, 50.

*Raunds*, church, cross, 137.

Reynolds, Edward, Bishop, account of, 51.

RIVERS, Nen, 38; Welland, Ouse, 39; Avon, Leam, Charwell, 40.

Rockingham Forest, situation, extent, and officers of, 34-36.

ROCKINGHAM, 205; castle, 206; church, 208; monuments, 207.

ROMAN STATIONS, ROADS, and ANTIQUITIES, in Northamptonshire, 3-7; at Borough Hill, 60-62; at Woodford, 74; at Aynho, 75; at Towcester, 91; at Lilborn, 159; at Weldon, 207; at Chester, 187; at Mill Cotton, 188.

ROTHWELL Hundred, 164-171; parishes in, 165.

*Rothwell*, priory, 168; account of Sir Thomas Tresham and son, 169.

*Rushton*, monument, 169.

Rushton Hall, seat, 170.

S

Salcey Forest, situation, extent, division, officers, deer, timber, management of, and observations on, 25-30.

Scales, Anthony Lord, account of, 95, 96.

*Sewardsley*, priory, 95.

Shelbrook Lawn, seat, 89

Shrob Lodge, seat, 97.

Silverston, hamlet, 88.

Skinner, Robert, Bishop, account of, 140.

Smith, John, engraver, account of, 57.

SPELHOE Hundred, 111-141; parishes in, 111.

*Spratton*, 140; church, monument, 141.

Stanbridge, John, grammarian, account of, 150.

*Stanford*, 162; monuments, 163.

*Stanwick*, remarkable spring, tessellated pavement, 188; church, natives, 189.

*Staverton*, supposed to be the highest ground in England, 67.

*Steane*, monuments of the Crewe family, 83, 84; manor house, 85.

Steward, Dr. Richard, divine, account of, 90.

*Stoke Bruerne*, monument at, 99.

Stoke Park, seat, 98; account of Francis Crane, Esq. 99.

Stone, Nicholas, mason, account of, 69.

*Stowe*, monuments, account of Nicholas Stone, and Dr. Thomas Turner, 67-69.

Sulby Abbey, 163.

*Sulgrave*, castle, hill, encampment, 74.

T

Talbot, Robert, antiquary, account of, 170.

Thenford Hall, seat 85.

Thorpe Malsor, account of Robert Talbot, 170.

THRAPSTON, 208.

TOWCESTER, Hundred, 89-93; parishes in, 89.

TOWCESTER, Roman Antiquities, and station at, 91; ancient and present state of, monument, 92; account of Sir Richard Empson, 93.

Tripontium, Roman station, 3, 4, 159.

Turner, Dr. Thomas, divine, account and monument of, 69, 70.

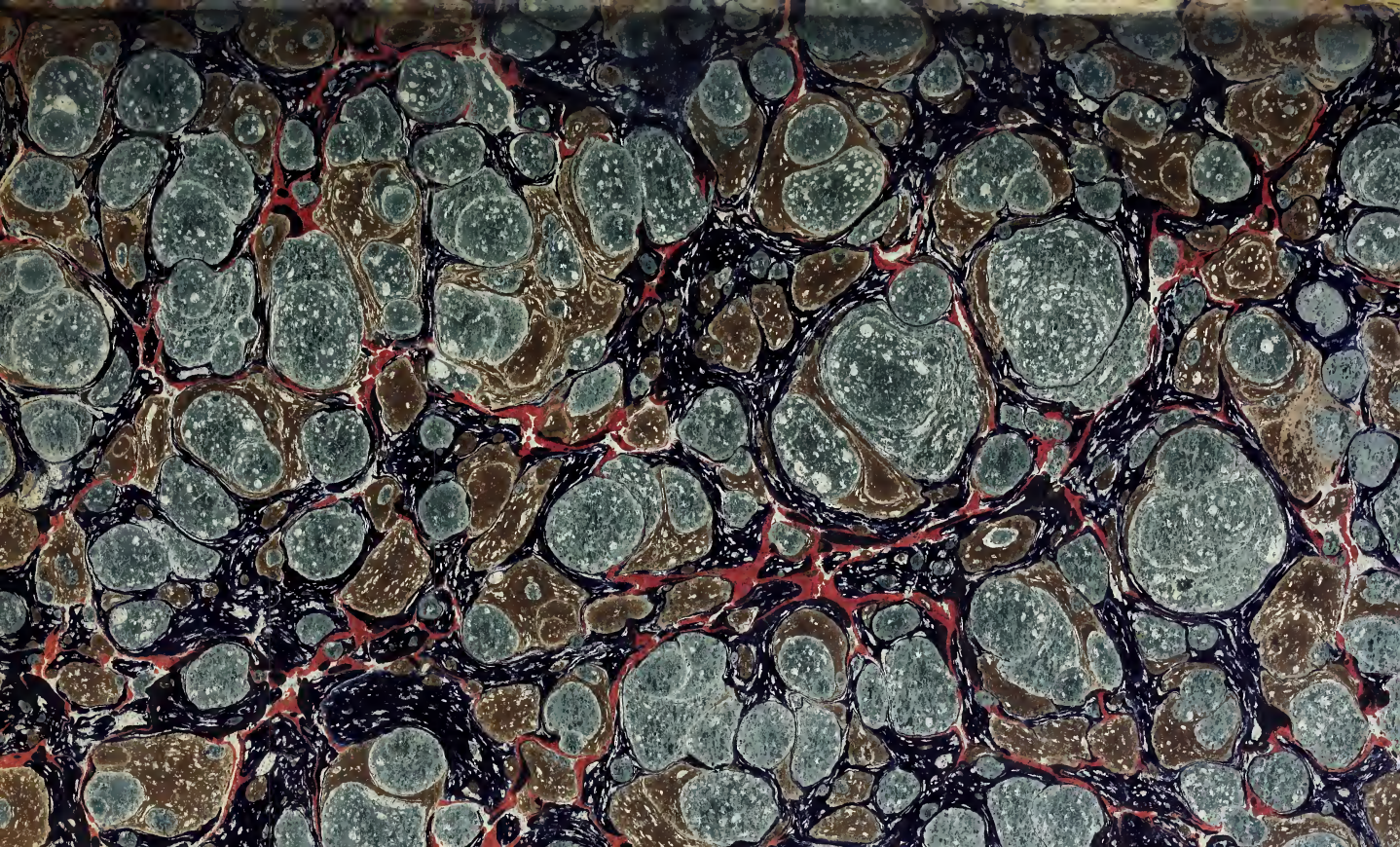
U

Upton Hall, seat, 153; possessors, pictures, 154; some account of Sir John Finett, 154; and of James Harrington, Esq. 155; church, monuments, 156.

W

Wake, Sir Isaac, statesman, account of, 112.
Wakefield Lodge, seat, 89.
*Warkton*, church, three fine monuments, 198.
*Watford*, monuments, 163.
*Wedon Bec*, ancient religious house, and royal palace, 70.
*Weekly* church, monuments in, 199.
WELDON, GREAT, 207.
Welland, river, course of, 39.
WELLINGBOROUGH, mineral spring at, buildings, 178; church, schools, manufacture, 179.
*Weston-Favell*, old mansions at, orchard, 141.
Whalley, Peter, divine, account of, 177.
*Whiston*, church, 102, 103; monuments, 103.
Whittlebury, hamlet, 83.
Whittlewood Forest, extent, division, officers, deer, timber, and management of, 30-34.
Wilkins, John, bishop, account of, 66.
WILLYBROOK Hundred, 213; parishes in, ib.
Winwood, Sir Ralph, statesman, account of, 76.
Wood, William, divine, account of, 108, 109.
*Woodford*, Roman remains at, 74,
Wothorp, 288.
WYMERSLEY Hundred, 100-110; parishes in, 100.

END OF THE ACCOUNT OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.



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